U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Preliminary Environmental Assessment

DOI-BLM-NV-L030-2011-0011 EA

August 4, 2011

Grazing Permit Renewal
for
D/4 Enterprises (#2705021)
on the
Bald Mountain Allotment
(#21003)

Lincoln County, Nevada

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1.0 Introduction

This document identifies issues, analyzes alternatives, and discloses the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed term grazing permit renewal for D/4 Enterprises (#2705021) on the Bald Mountain Allotment (#21003). There are no other permittees which hold grazing privileges on the allotment.

1.1 Background

The Bald Mountain Allotment is a water based allotment located within Lincoln County, Nevada in the southwest portion of the Ely District BLM; approximately 55 miles west of Caliente and three miles southeast of Rachel (Appendix I, Maps #1 and #2). Cattle are the type of livestock grazed on the allotment.

There is no formal grazing system being implemented, and some portions of the allotment are in need of periodic rest from grazing during the spring critical growing season. Current management practices are a reflection of Best Management Practices (BMPs) as coordinated between the permittee and the appropriate BLM Range Management Specialist.

Allotment General Location:

T.4 S., R.55, 56, 57 E., MDBM, many sections
T.5 S., R.55.5, 56, 57, 58 E., MDBM, many sections
T.6 S., R. 56, 57, 58, 59 E., MDBM, many sections
T.7 S., R. 56, 57, 58, 59 E., MDBM, many sections

1.2 Introduction of the Proposed Action.

The BLM proposes to fully process and issue a new term grazing permit, for D/4 Enterprises, which would authorize cattle grazing on the Bald Mountain Allotment.

Changes to grazing management are recommended which would establish an Allowable Use Level (AUL) along with a Best Management Practice (BMP) within the allotment. Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration were developed by the Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council (RAC) and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on February 12, 1997. The AUL and BMP would assist in achieving/maintaining these Standards.

Monitoring data were collected and analyzed; and an assessment of the rangeland health for the Bald Mountain Allotment was completed in 2011, during the permit renewal process, through a Standards Determination Document (SDD) (Appendix II). A summary of this information follows:

Table 1.2 Summary of Assessment of the Mojave-Southern Great Basin Area Standards for the Bald Mountain Allotment.

Standard	Status
1. Soils	Achieved
2. Riparian and Wetland Sites Standard	Upland portion – Achieved Riparian Portion – Not Applicable
3. Habitat and Biota Standard	Not Achieved in the approximate south half of the allotment, and not making significant progress towards meeting the Standard Livestock are a contributing factor to NOT meeting the Standard

1.3 Need for the Proposed Action.

The need for the proposal is to authorize grazing use on public lands in a manner which satisfies the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) while being consistent with multiple use, sustained yield and the Nevada's Mojave-Southern Great Basin Area Standards for Rangeland Health; to manage livestock in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations, and policies; and to renew the term livestock grazing permit for D/4 Enterprises on the Bald Mountain Allotment while introducing management practices, along with specific terms and conditions, directed toward the attainment and/or continued achievement of the Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration.

An additional need for the Proposed Action is to fence the Crescent, Blowfly and Cutler Reservoirs; thereby, promoting better control of livestock by making herding more effective, and making a rotational grazing system in the south half of the allotment possible. Subsequently, this would allow significant progress to be made toward the achievement of Standard 3 which is not currently being met in the south half of the allotment.

1.3.1 Objectives for the Proposed Action.

- To renew the grazing term permit for D/4 Enterprises and authorize grazing in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and land use plans (LUP) on approximately 218,229 acres of public land.

- To improve/maintain vegetative health and growth conditions on the allotment while either making progress toward or maintaining achievement of the Standards and Guidelines for rangeland health as approved and published by Mojave-Southern Great Basin RAC.

1.4 Relationship to Planning

The proposed action is in conformance with the Ely District Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP) signed August 20, 2008, which states, "Manage livestock grazing on public lands to provide for a level of livestock grazing consistent with multiple use, sustained yield, and watershed function and health." In addition, "To allow livestock grazing to occur in a manner and at levels consistent with multiple use, sustained yield, and the standards for rangeland health (p. 85-86)."

Management Action LG-1 states, "Make approximately 11,246,900 acres and 545,267 animal unit months available for livestock grazing on a long-term basis."

Management Action LG-5 states, "Maintain the current grazing preference, season-of-use, and kind of livestock until the allotments that have not been evaluated for meeting or making progress toward meeting the standards or are in conformance with the policies are evaluated. Depending on the results of the standards assessment, maintain or modify grazing preference, seasons-of-use, kind of livestock and grazing management practices to achieve the standards for rangeland health. Changes, such as improved livestock management, new range improvement projects, and changes in the amount and kinds of forage permanently available for livestock use, can lead to changes in preference, authorized season-of-use, or kind of livestock. Ensure changes continue to meet the RMP goals and objectives, including the standards for rangeland health."

1.5 Relationship to Other Plans

The proposed action is in compliance with the following:

- State Protocol Agreement between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Nevada and the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office (October 26, 2009)

- National Historic Preservation Act (Public Law 89-665; 16 U.S.C. 470 as amended through 2000)

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- Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Standards and Guidelines (12 February 1997).

- Migratory Bird Treaty Act (1918 as amended) and Executive Order 13186 (1/11/01).

- Executive Order 13186: Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds (2001)

- The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4347, January 1, 1970, as amended 1975 and 1994)

- The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. §§ 1701-1782, October 21, 1976, as amended 1978, 1984, 1986, 1988, 1990-1992, 1994 and 1996)

1.6 Tiering

This document is tiered to the Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (Ely PRMP/FEIS, Volumes I and II) (November 2007).

1.7 Relevant Issues and Internal Scoping/Public Scoping.

The Ely District Office mails an annual Consultation, Cooperation, and Coordination (CCC) letter to individuals and organizations who have expressed an interest in rangeland management related actions. Those receiving the annual CCC letter have the opportunity to request, from the District Office, more information regarding specific actions (e.g., term permit renewals).

On December 16, 2010, the Ely BLM annual CCC letter was mailed which notified interested publics of the livestock grazing term permit renewals scheduled for 2011. The letter included D/4 Enterprises on the Bald Mountain Allotment for which no public scoping comments were received.

On December 29, 2010, a letter was sent to local Native American tribes requesting comments by January 21, 2011 regarding the permit renewal process for D/4 Enterprises on the Bald Mountain Allotment. No comments were received.

On March 9, 2011 a BLM internal meeting was held in coordination between the Caliente Field Office the Ely BLM District Office. The term permit renewal proposal for D/4 Enterprises was presented and scoped by resource specialists to identify any relevant issues. No potential issues were identified.

On March 23, 2011, D/4 Enterprises was sent a letter informing them of the proposed term permit renewal process scheduled for their allotment during 2011. No comments were received.

On June 10, 2011, the proposal to fully process the term permit, for D/4 Enterprises was submitted for posting on the Ely BLM internet site http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely_field_office.html).

This EA will be submitted for posting, for a 15 day public review and comment period, on the Ely BLM external website. A hard copy will also be mailed to those interested publics who have requested it and who have expressed an interest in range management actions on the Bald Mountain Allotment. Changes in the EA will be made based upon pertinent public input.

Interested publics will be notified, again, by mail or email when the Proposed Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact (DR/FONSI) is signed. Before including addresses, phone numbers, email addresses or other personal identifying information in comments, you should be aware that the entire comment – including personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. These documents will also be mailed to interested publics that request a hard copy. The signed DR/FONSI initiates a 15 day protest period followed by a 30 day appeal period.

2.0 Alternatives Including the Proposed Action

2.1 Proposed Action

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Caliente Field Office proposes to renew the term grazing permit for D/4 Enterprises (#2705021) on the Bald Mountain Allotment (#21003).

Table 1 in Appendix B of the SDD illustrates annual livestock grazing use on the Bald Mountain Allotment - as AUMs licensed and percent of Active Use by grazing year - from March 1, 2006 through February 28, 2011 (5 years). It also shows the Total Active Use on the allotment of 5,811 AUMs. As the table illustrates, the licensed annual use on the allotment, during the five years has frequently been below the combined Total Active AUMs. However, there is no existing grazing management system.

As Table 1.2 (above) illustrates, Standard 3 is not being achieved, in the approximate south half of the allotment, and livestock grazing has been determined to be a contributing factor. Crescent, Blowfly and Cutler Reservoirs are located in this portion of the allotment. These reservoirs are not fenced and contain water yearlong. Because of the lack of fencing, controlling livestock becomes difficult and consequently ineffective. When livestock are herded to other areas within the allotment they migrate back to the southeast quadrant where the reservoirs are located. Hence, the area receives use yearlong which doesn't allow periodic spring rest during the critical growing period for plants.

Consequently, this does not allow for the type of root mass and subsequent above ground biomass development which lends itself to healthy, vigorous growing plants; especially grasses. It is believed that the annual spring grazing has steadily diminished the root systems of the grasses, causing above ground biomass to correspondingly diminish over time[1]; and is, most likely, a contributing causal factor for the low volume per plant of herbaceous ground cover observed in the portion of the allotment represented by KAs #2 and #4.

The Proposed Action is to maintain the Active Use of 5,811 AUMs and yearlong grazing in accordance with the current term permit. However, the authorization of 5,811 AUMs, during any given year, would be based on annual forage availability.

The Proposed Action would also include the hand construction of fence exclosures (with gates) around Crescent, Blowfly and Cutler Reservoirs to allow livestock access to these watering locations only when desired by the permittee. The finished fence, around each reservoir, would encompass an area of approximately three acres in size with the perimeter of each fence being approximately one-quarter mile in circumference. No vegetation would be altered or removed during construction. Existing developed dirt roads provide easy access to each reservoir; therefore, no off road travel is necessary. A *Findings for Cultural Resources Needs Assessment* was completed on June 8, 2011 for the construction of fence exclosures around the Crescent, Blowfly and Cutler reservoirs.

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[1] Dietz, Harland E. 1989. Grass: the Stockman's Crop, How to Harvest More of It. Special Report. Sunshine Unlimited, Inc. 15 pp.

The BLM would supply all fence materials. However, the permittee would be responsible for all fence construction and subsequent fence maintenance. The project would be constructed under a Cooperative Range Improvement Agreement (Form 4120-6). Construction would occur in coordination with a BLM project inspector (PI) according to BLM Handbook H-1741-1 along with the current standard fence construction specifications found in Appendix III. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that would be followed, for this portion of the Proposed Action, are listed in Appendix IV. The PI, or a representative from the BLM, would make periodic site visits to check on compliance of specifications and progress during fence construction. Upon completion of the fence, a final inspection would be made to ensure compliance with specifications and to correct any existing deficiencies.

The fence would be standard BLM four-strand wire fence which would consist of a smooth bottom wire and three upper strands of barbed wire. White topped green steel fence posts would be used for increased visibility for wildlife purposes. These posts would be spaced 16 feet apart with wire stays placed between them, according to BLM specifications, for stability. Wire spacing, measured from ground level to each strand of wire, would be 16”, 6”, 8” and 12” from the bottom strand to the top strand, respectively. Consequently, the fence would be 42” high from ground level to the top wire. All fence corners and panels would consist of galvanized metal pipe. No wood would be used in the construction of any of the exclosures. White flagging would be attached to the top wire between posts during construction to alert wildlife and livestock of the existence of the new fence. Gates would be installed on each exclosure to provide ingress and egress for animals and also equipment used to clean out the reservoirs.

Hand construction of the exclosure fences around the three reservoirs is not anticipated during the migratory bird nesting period, from April 15 to July 15. If construction is necessary during that period, nest surveys would be completed - prior to construction - by a wildlife biologist in order to avoid nests.

In addition, the mitigating measures incorporated into the fence construction operation, as described in the Risk Assessment for Noxious & Invasive Weeds (Appendix V), would limit the influence of this operation on noxious weed spread.

As part of the proposed action, the permittee would also be required to rotate grazing in the south portion of the allotment annually, so that spring grazing – during the critical growing period for plants – does not occur in the same portions on the allotment every year; particularly in those portions in the south half of the allotment where Standard 3 is not being achieved (represented by KAs #2 and #4). The permittee would accomplish this using existing watering locations and herding as management tools (Appendix A, Map #3).

The Proposed Action would also add other terms and conditions to the permit that would aid in achieving/maintaining the Mojave-Southern Great Basin Standards. No other changes to the permit would be made.

Grazing Rotation Plan for the South Half of the Allotment

In the southeast quadrant of the allotment, during the first spring (approximately 3/1 – 5/15), water hauls would be inactivated (dried-up) and gates to the three functional reservoirs - Cutler,

Blowfly and Crescent reservoirs - would be closed. This would include the all watering locations in T.6 S., R.58 E. and T.7 S., R.58 E.

During this period, waters in the southwest quadrant of the allotment would be utilized and livestock would be herded to this area. This would include the all watering locations in T.6 S., R.57 E. and T.7 S., R.57 E. Periodic herding would occur, as necessary, to keep livestock from migrating to the southeast quadrant of the allotment. After approximately 5/15 the livestock would be moved to the approximate north half of the allotment to graze the summer and fall months.

During the following spring (second spring) (approximately 3/1 – 5/15), the waters located in the southeast quadrant of the allotment, inactivated during the first spring, would be utilized and livestock would be herded to this area; while the waters utilized during the first spring, in the southwest quadrant of the allotment, would be inactivated (water haul locations dried-up). Periodic herding would occur, as necessary, to keep livestock from migrating to the southwest quadrant of the allotment which was used the previous spring. Again, after approximately 5/15 the livestock would be moved to the approximate north half of the allotment to graze during the summer and fall months.

This rotational procedure would be perpetuated, so that during any particular spring when the southwest quadrant of the allotment is grazed, the southeast quadrant is not and vice-versa.

This grazing system would rotate livestock, so that grazing does not occur in the same areas in the south half of the allotment, every year, during most of the critical growing period for cool season plants. This would aid in favoring plant growth and seed set requirements necessary to promote healthy, vigorous plants by allowing such plants: to develop above ground biomass to help protect soils and provide desirable perennial cover for wildlife; to contribute to litter cover; and to continue to develop root masses which lends itself to improved carbohydrate storage for plant vigor and reproduction.[2]

2.1.1 Current Permit

The current term grazing permit, for the D/4 Enterprises (#2705021) has been issued for the period 3/1/2006 – 2/28/2016. Table 2.1.1, below, displays the current term grazing permit.

[2] Dietz, Harland E. 1989. Grass: the Stockman's Crop, How to Harvest More of It. Special Report. Sunshine Unlimited, Inc. 15 pp.

Table 2.1.1 Current Term Grazing Permit for D/4 Enterprises (#2705021) on the Bald Mountain Allotment.

ALLOTMENT		LIVESTOCK		GRAZING PERIOD		** % Public Land	AUMs		
Name	Number	* Number	Kind	Begin	End		Active Use	Hist. Susp. Use	Total Use
Bald Mountain	21003	480	C	3/01	2/28	100	5,811	487	6,298
		5	H	3/01	2/28	100			

* These numbers are approximate
** This is for billing purposes only.

2.1.2 Proposed Term Permit

The new term permit would contain the same mandatory terms and conditions as the current term permit (Table 2.1.1).

However, the new term permit would also include terms and conditions which further assist in achieving/maintaining the Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration in addition to other pertinent land use objectives for livestock use (Appendix VI).

In addition, the following rotational grazing system (BMP) would be included in term grazing permit:

<u>Grazing Rotation Plan for the South Half of the Allotment</u>

A rotational grazing system would be introduced, in the south half of the allotment, using watering locations as a controlling factor (Appendix I, Map #3):

In the southeast quadrant of the allotment, during the first spring (approximately 3/1 – 5/15), water hauls would be inactivated (dried-up) and gates to the three functional reservoirs - Cutler, Blowfly and Crescent reservoirs - would be closed. This would include the all watering locations in T.6 S., R.58 E. and T.7 S., R.58 E.

During this period, waters in the southwest quadrant of the allotment would be utilized and livestock would be herded to this area. This would include the all watering locations in T.6 S., R.57 E. and T.7 S., R.57 E. Periodic herding would occur, as necessary, to keep livestock from migrating to the southeast quadrant of the allotment. After approximately 5/15 the livestock would be moved to the approximate north half of the allotment to graze the summer and fall months.

During the following spring (second spring) (approximately 3/1 – 5/15), the waters located in the southeast quadrant of the allotment, inactivated during the first spring, would be utilized and livestock would be herded to this area; while the waters utilized during the first spring, in the southwest quadrant of the allotment, would be inactivated (water haul locations dried-up). Periodic herding would occur, as necessary, to keep livestock from migrating to the southwest

quadrant of the allotment which was used the previous spring. Again, after approximately 5/15 the livestock would be moved to the approximate north half of the allotment to graze during the summer and fall months.

This rotational procedure would be perpetuated, so that during any particular spring when the southwest quadrant of the allotment is grazed, the southeast quadrant is not and vice-versa.

The following Terms and Conditions would also be added to the Term Grazing Permit:

1. Allowable Use Levels on current year's growth of upland vegetation (grasses, forbs and shrubs) within the Bald Mountain Allotment - during the authorized grazing use period (3/1–2/28) - will not exceed 45%.

2. Livestock will be moved to another authorized pasture or removed from the allotment before utilization objectives are met or no later than 5 days after meeting the utilization objectives. Any deviation in livestock movement will require authorization from the authorized officer.

To address the Mount Irish Wilderness Area, created through the Lincoln County Conservation Recreation and Development Act P.L. 108-424, the following term and condition will be added to comply with the Wilderness Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-577) (see Congressional Grazing Guidelines in Appendix C of the Standards Determination Document in Appendix II of this EA):

3. No motorized access is permitted within the designated Mount Irish Wilderness Area without approval of the District Manager. Occasional motorized access may be permitted for emergency situations, or where practical alternatives for reasonable grazing management needs are not available and such use would not have a significant adverse impact on the natural environment.

In relation to grazing, there would be no additional terms and conditions needed for management practices to conform to guidelines to either make progress toward or to maintain achievement of the Standards for Rangeland Health.

The renewal of the term grazing permit would be for a period of up to 10 years. If the grazing privileges associated with this term permit are transferred during this ten year period - with no changes to the terms and conditions of the permit - the new term permit would be issued for the remainder of the 10 year period.

2.1.3 Invasive, Non-Native Species and Noxious Weeds

A Weed Risk Assessment was completed for this project (Appendix V). The measures listed in the Weed Risk Assessment will be followed, when grazing occurs on the allotment, to minimize the spread of weeds.

2.1.4 Monitoring

The Ely District Approved Resource Management Plan (August 2008) identifies monitoring to include, "Monitoring to assess rangeland health standards will include records of actual livestock use, measurements of forage utilization, ecological site inventory data, cover data, soil mapping, and allotment evaluations or rangeland health assessments. Conditions and trends of resources affected by livestock grazing will be monitored to support periodic analysis/evaluation, site-specific adjustments of livestock management actions, and term permit renewals" (pg. 88).

2.2 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative, for livestock grazing, permit renewals is defined as "continuing to graze under current terms and conditions" in IM-2000-022, Change 1 (re-authorized by IM-2010-063)

Therefore, the No Action Alternative would reflect the status quo. The term permit would be issued without changes to grazing management, or modifications to the existing terms and conditions of the permit. The fence exclosures around Crescent, Blowfly and Cutler Reservoirs would not be constructed.

The renewal of the term grazing permit would be for a period of up to 10 years. If grazing privileges are transferred during this ten year period - with no changes to the terms and conditions of the permit - the new term permit would be issued for the remainder of the 10 year period.

2.3 No Grazing Alternative

Under this alternative a new term grazing permit would not be issued, once the current term permit expired, resulting in no authorized livestock grazing on the allotment.

This alternative was also considered and analyzed in the Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (November, 2007) which is addressed below.

2.4 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Further Analysis

The Ely PRMP/FEIS) (November, 2007) (Volume II) analyzes the Environmental Impacts of livestock grazing for five alternatives (p.4.16-1 to 4.16-15.), including a no-grazing alternative (D). It also analyzes Environmental impacts on vegetative resources from livestock grazing under each of the five alternatives (4.5-1 to 4.5-28), including the no-grazing alternative. No further analysis is necessary in this document for the former four alternatives. However, the no-grazing alternative is additionally analyzed in this EA.

- Ely PRMP/FEIS (November 2007).
- Alternative A, The Continuation of Current Existing (No Action alternative)
- Alternative B, the maintenance and restoration of healthy ecological systems
- Alternative C, commodity production
- Alternative D, conservation alternative (no-grazing alternative)

3.0 Description of the Affected Environment and Associated Environmental Consequences

3.1 Allotment Information

This water based allotment is located within Lincoln County, Nevada in the southwest portion of the Ely District BLM; approximately 55 miles west of Caliente and three miles southeast of Rachel (Appendix I, Maps #1 and #2). Cattle are the type of livestock grazed on the allotment.

The Bald Mountain Allotment encompasses approximately 218,229 acres. The extreme north portion of the allotment is located within the Sand Springs Watershed (#204) while the remaining portion of the allotment is located within the Tikaboo Valley Watershed (#213).

Neither the allotment nor any of its portions are located within a Wild Horse Herd Management Area (HMA), Wilderness Study Area or within desert tortoise habitat. However, a small portion of the Mount Irish Wilderness falls within the extreme northeast portion of the allotment within the Mount Irish Range (Appendix I, Maps #1, #2 and #3). This area is characterized by steep, rugged terrain which is unattractive to livestock. There are no designated roads of any kind located within the portion of the wilderness area occurring inside the allotment boundary.

Although there are no known riparian areas located within the allotment on BLM managed lands there are numerous livestock watering locations on the allotment (Appendix I, Map #3). Three of these watering locations are currently unfenced reservoirs, approximately 300-400 feet in diameter, with large berms forming their perimeters. These reservoirs are periodically cleaned out, using heavy equipment and, therefore, have very little vegetation growing around their perimeters. Water is captured in these reservoirs from the respective wash(s) that lead into them. They were constructed during the 1970s and have been a relatively reliable water supply.

Elevations range from approximately 7,200 feet within the mountainous terrain which mostly occurs around the periphery of the allotment to approximately 1,400 feet in the central portion of the allotment.

3.2 Resources/Concerns Considered for Analysis - Proposed Action

The following items have been evaluated for the potential for significant impacts to occur, either directly, indirectly, or cumulatively, due to implementation of the proposed action.

Consideration of some of these items is to ensure compliance with laws, statutes or Executive Orders that impose certain requirements upon all Federal actions. Other items are relevant to the management of public lands in general and to the Ely BLM in particular.

Resource/Concern Considered	Issue(s) Analyzed	Rationale for Dismissal from Analysis or Issue(s) Requiring Detailed Analysis
Air Quality	No	Air quality in Lincoln County is classified by the State of Nevada as being "unclassifiable" since no monitoring has been conducted to determine the classification and National Ambient Air Quality Standards; violations would not otherwise be expected in the county.

Resource/Concern Considered	Issue(s) Analyzed	Rationale for Dismissal from Analysis or Issue(s) Requiring Detailed Analysis
		The proposed action would not have a measurable affect the air quality of Lincoln County. Any dust created would be expected to be ephemeral.
Cultural Resources	No	Impacts from livestock grazing on Cultural Resources are analyzed on page 4.9-5 of the Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (November 2007). According to the Ely District Approved Resource Management Plan, August 2008, (RMP) it is the goal of the Ely District to identify, preserve, and protect significant cultural resources and ensure that they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations. They are to protect and maintain these cultural resources on BLM-administered land in stable condition. To accomplish this they are to seek to reduce imminent threats and resolve potential conflicts from natural or human-caused deterioration or potential conflict with other resource uses by ensuring that all authorizations for land use and resource use will comply with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106. In accordance with this act, "any material remains of past human life or activities which are of archaeological interest" shall be assessed and secured "for the present and future benefits of the American People". Therefore, all ground disturbing activities related to livestock grazing (such as fence construction, road construction, water developments, etc.) within the allotment(s) associated with these Term Permit(s) will be subject to Section 106 review and, if needed, SHPO consultation as per BLM Nevada's implementation of the Protocol for cultural resources. Livestock grazing has been an historic use of federal lands, now managed by the Caliente Field Office, since the mid-19th century. The extent of effects from livestock grazing on archeological sites is difficult to determine, since extensive livestock grazing has occurred in this region for over 150 years. Though, it is likely that the majority of the livestock-related impacts on cultural resources occurred prior to the passage of the Taylor Grazing Act in 1934. The BLM conducts field investigations and maintains files of archeological sites on public lands. Analyses of existing documentation indicates that concentrated livestock activities near water sources, along fences, and in areas where livestock seek shelter, could adversely affect cultural resources. The cultural staff will identify cultural properties being impacted by grazing activities to be monitored in order to determine condition, impacts, deterioration, and use of these properties. Site monitoring is conducted by BLM archeologists, law enforcement rangers, and trained site stewards, to identify impacts and evaluate site conditions. As necessary, strategies are developed and implemented in order to reduce threats and resolve conflicts to the property. A *Findings for Cultural Resources Needs Assessment* was completed on June 8, 2011 for the construction of fence exclosures around the Crescent, Blowfly and Cutler reservoirs.
Paleontological Resources	No	No currently identified paleontological resources are present in the project area.
Native American Religious Concerns and other concerns	No	Tribal coordination letters were sent out on December 29, 2010 for the 2011 term permit renewals, which included the Bald Mountain Allotment, notifying the tribes of a 30 day comment period. No concerns were identified. Direct impacts and cumulative impacts would not occur, because there were no identified concerns through coordination.
Noxious and Invasive Weed Management	No	Livestock grazing has the potential to spread noxious and invasive weeds. A Weed Risk Assessment was completed for this project (Appendix V).

Resource/Concern Considered	Issue(s) Analyzed	Rationale for Dismissal from Analysis or Issue(s) Requiring Detailed Analysis
		The design features of the proposed action in addition to the vigilant practices described in the Noxious Weed Risk Assessment will help prevent livestock grazing from spreading noxious and non-native, invasive weeds. In addition, the Salt cedar, mentioned in the Weed Risk Assessment, is found adjacent to Blowfly Reservoir and consists of a few trees. The Russian Knapweed, also mentioned in the assessment, is located adjacent to Highway 375, approximately seven miles from the reservoir. Hand construction of the fence exclosures around Crescent, Blowfly and Cutler Reservoirs would not increase the spread of the noxious weed salt cedar within the allotment. No additional analysis is needed.
Vegetative Resources	Yes	Impacts from livestock grazing on Vegetation Resources were analyzed on page 4.5-9 in the Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (November 2007). Beneficial impacts to vegetative resources are consistent with the need and objectives for the proposed action. This resource has been further analyzed in the EA.
Rangeland Standards and Health	Yes	Impacts from livestock grazing on Rangeland Standards and Health are analyzed on pages 4.16-3 through 4.16-4 of the Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (November 2007). Beneficial impacts to rangeland standards and health are consistent with the need and objectives for the proposed action. Analysis of the proposed action and alternatives is provided in the affected environment and environmental impacts sections. Hand construction of the exclosure fences around Crescent, Blowfly and Cutler Reservoirs would promote better control of livestock by making herding more effective, and making a rotational grazing system in the south half of the allotment possible. Subsequently, this would allow significant progress to be made toward the achievement of Standard 3 which is not currently being met in the south half of the allotment.
Forest Health[1]	No	There are no Pinyon-juniper woodlands located on the Bald Mountain Allotment.
Wastes, Hazardous or Solid	No	No hazardous or solid wastes exist on the permit renewal area, nor would any be introduced by the proposed action or alternatives.
Wilderness	No	A small portion of the Mount Irish Wilderness falls within the extreme northeast portion of the allotment within the Mount Irish Range (Appendix I, Maps #1, #2 and #3). This area is characterized by steep, rugged terrain which is unattractive to livestock. There are no designated roads of any kind located within the portion of the wilderness area occurring inside the allotment boundary. It is anticipated that grazing impacts would be negligible when the Congressional Grazing Guidelines are followed (Appendix C of the Standards Determination Document which is found in Appendix II of this EA). Therefore, it is anticipated that the proposed action would not have a measurable affect this resource.
Special Designations other than Designated Wilderness	No	No Special Designations occur within the project area.

Resource/Concern Considered	Issue(s) Analyzed	Rationale for Dismissal from Analysis or Issue(s) Requiring Detailed Analysis
Wetlands/Riparian Zones	No	No riparian areas occur on public land in the analysis area.
Water Quality, Drinking/Ground	No	The Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (November 2007) disclosed effects to Water Resources from livestock grazing on page 4.3-5. The proposed action would not affect water quality (surface or groundwater sources) or drinking water in the project area. No surface water in the project area is used as human drinking water sources and no impaired water bodies of the State on Nevada are present in the project area.
Water Resources (Water Rights)	No	The Proposed Action would not affect existing or pending water rights in the project analysis area.
Floodplains	No	The project analysis area is not included on FEMA flood maps. The resource does not exist in the proposed project area.
Migratory Birds	No	The migratory bird species that likely occur in or near the project area are listed in Appendix VII. This list includes BLM Sensitive species. It is anticipated that the portion of the Proposed Action, regarding rotational spring grazing in the south half of the allotment, and the establishment of Allowable Use Levels would aid in either making progress toward or maintaining achievement of the Standards and Guidelines for rangeland health; thereby, maintaining or improving habitat conditions for all migratory birds of concern. There is always a possibility that the nests, and/or developing young, of ground nesting birds during the spring nesting period could be trampled by cattle or horses. However, the potential for nest trampling is anticipated to be remote and upon occurrence, would be limited to an occasional individual or nest. If nests were lost due to trampling, birds would likely re-nest. Grazing would also reduce the height of existing vegetative structure and cover to some degree. However, with the establishment Allowable Use Levels it is anticipated that vegetative structure and cover would be negligibly affected. In view of the aforementioned, it is anticipated that the impacts to migratory bird populations, as a whole, would be negligible; thereby, having no adverse affect. Hand construction of the exclosure fences around Crescent, Blowfly and Cutler Reservoirs is not anticipated during the migratory bird nesting period, from April 15 to July 15. If construction is necessary during that period, nest surveys would be completed - prior to construction - by a wildlife biologist in order to avoid nests. There would be no anticipated impacts to migratory birds. Therefore, it is anticipated that the proposed action would not have a measurable affect this resource.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Listed or proposed for listing Threatened or Endangered Species or critical habitat.*	No	There are no known Threatened or Endangered Species which are listed or are proposed for listing or critical habitat within the Bald Mountain Allotment.
Special Status Plant Species, other than those listed or proposed by the UFWS as Threatened or	No	There are no BLM Special Status Plant Species known to occur within the Bald Mountain Allotment.

Resource/Concern Considered	Issue(s) Analyzed	Rationale for Dismissal from Analysis or Issue(s) Requiring Detailed Analysis
Endangered		
Special Status Animal Species, other than those listed or proposed by the UFWS as Threatened or Endangered	No	There are no BLM Special Status Animal Species known to occur within the Bald Mountain Allotment.
Fish and Wildlife	No	There are no lentic or lotic riparian areas located within the Bald Mountain Allotment on BLM managed lands. However, wildlife species (plant and animal) – including sensitive species – that likely occur in or near the project area are listed in Appendix VII. Impacts from livestock grazing on Fish and Wildlife are analyzed on pages 4.6-10 through 4.6-11 in the Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (November 2007). Grazing would reduce the amount of available forage (grass and forbs); however, compliance with Ely Resource Management Plan standards for utilization percentages ensures that forage is present in the allotment after cattle are removed. During hand construction of the exclosure fences around Crescent, Blowfly and Cutler Reservoirs, white flagging would be attached to the top wire between posts during construction to alert wildlife and livestock of the existence of the new fence. White topped green steel fence posts would be used in fence construction for increased visibility for wildlife purposes. Therefore, it is anticipated that the proposed action would have no a measurable affect this resource.
Wild Horses	No	Neither the allotment nor any of its portions are located within a Wild Horse Herd Management Area (HMA).
Soil Resources	No	The Ely Proposed resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (November 2007) disclosed effects to Soil Resources resulting from livestock grazing actions on page 4.4-4. Soils in the project analysis area are not prone to compaction or erosion problems; infiltration rates and soil permeability are high and soil textures are coarse throughout the area It is expected that the proposed action would not measurably affect soil resources.
Mineral Resources	No	There would be no modifications to mineral resources through the proposed action or alternatives; therefore, no direct or cumulative impacts would occur to minerals.
VRM	No	The proposed action is consistent with the VRM classification objectives for VRM classes 2, 3 and 4 within the allotment; therefore, no direct or cumulative impacts to visual resources would occur. The portion of the allotment within the Mt. Irish Wilderness, which has a VRM classification of 1, is characterized by steep, rugged terrain which is unattractive to livestock. There are no designated roads of any kind located within the portion of the wilderness area occurring inside the allotment boundary.
Recreation Uses	No	Design features identified in the proposed action would result in negligible impacts to recreational activities

Resource/Concern Considered	Issue(s) Analyzed	Rationale for Dismissal from Analysis or Issue(s) Requiring Detailed Analysis
Grazing Uses	Yes	Wildlife species (plant and animal) that likely occur in or near the project area are listed in Appendix VII. Livestock grazing is analyzed in the EA.
Land Uses	No	There would be no modifications to land use authorizations through the proposed action, therefore no impacts would occur. No direct or cumulative impacts would occur to access and land use.
Environmental Justice	No	No environmental justice issues are present at or near the project area. No minority or low income populations would be unduly affected by the proposed action or alternatives.
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)	No	Resource not present in allotment.
Farmlands (Prime or Unique)	No	Prime and unique farmland is found throughout the flatter central portion of the allotment. Neither livestock grazing, nor fence exclosure construction around the Crescent, Blowfly and Cutler reservoirs will have impacts to prime farmlands, because it will not change soil characteristics that affect farmland status.

[1] Healthy Forests Restoration Act projects only

* Consultation required, unless a "not present" or "no effect" finding is made.

The resources, listed within the above table, that are not present within the Bald Mountain Allotment and, therefore, do not require a detailed analysis include: Cultural Resources; Paleontological Resources; Native American Religious Concerns; Forest Health; Wastes-Hazardous or Solid; Wilderness; Special Designations other than Designated Wilderness; Wetlands/Riparian Zones; Floodplains; USFWS Listed or proposed for listing Threatened or Endangered Species or critical habitat; Special Status Plant Species-other than those listed or proposed by the FWS as Threatened or Endangered; Special Status Animal Species, other than those listed or proposed by the UFWS as Threatened or Endangered; Fish and Wildlife; Wild Horses; Soil Resources; Mineral Resources; Land Uses and Environmental Justice and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

The resources, listed within the above table, that are present within the Bald Mountain Allotment and were assigned a "No" under the "Issue(s) Analyzed" column, because they are negligibly affected by the proposed action, include: Noxious and Invasive Weed Management; Water Quality-Drinking/Ground; Water Resources (Water Rights); Migratory Birds; VRM and Recreation Uses and Farmlands (Prime or Unique).

The following are the remaining resources, listed within the above table, which are also present within the Bald Mountain Allotment and which were also assigned a "No" under the "Issue(s) Analyzed" column, because they are negligibly affected by the proposed action. However, an analysis of grazing impacts on these resources may be found in the Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (November 2007), on the noted pages, and include: Air Quality; Cultural Resources (page 4.9-5); Water Resources (page 4.3-5); Watershed Management (page 4.19-8); Fish and Wildlife (pages 4.6-10 through 4.6-11); Soil Resources (page 4.4-4). Consequently, these resources do not require a further detailed analysis.

However, the following is a detailed analysis regarding Vegetative Resources, Rangeland Standards and Health, and Grazing Uses. These three resources were assigned a "Yes" under the "Issue(s) Analyzed" column in the above table; and have been identified by the BLM interdisciplinary team as resources within the affected environment that merit a detailed analysis. An analysis of grazing impacts on the former two resources may be found in the Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (November 2007), on the following noted pages: Vegetative Resources (page 4.5-9); Rangeland Standards and Health (pages 4.16-3 through 4.16-4).

3.3 Resources/Concerns Analyzed

The resources/concerns analyzed include Vegetative Resources, Rangeland Standards and Health and Grazing Uses.

3.3.1 Vegetative Resources, Rangeland Standards and Health, and Grazing Uses

3.3.1.1 Affected Environment

Section 3.1, above, describes some basic information about the Bald Mountain Allotment.

An assessment and evaluation of livestock grazing managements achievement of the standards and conformance to the guidelines (Standards Determination Document or SDD) was completed in conjunction with this project (Appendix II).

Standard 1 is being achieved. The upland portion of Standard 2 is being achieved, while the riparian portion of this Standard 2 is not applicable.

However, Standard 3 is not being achieved in the approximate south half of the allotment. Currently, grazing use on the allotment is yearlong with livestock grazing the south half of the allotment every spring during the critical growing period for plants. Crescent, Blowfly and Cutler Reservoirs are located in this portion of the allotment. These reservoirs are not fenced and contain water yearlong. Because of the lack of fencing, controlling livestock becomes difficult and consequently ineffective. When livestock are herded to other areas within the allotment they migrate back to the area where the reservoirs are located. Hence, the area receives use yearlong which doesn't allow periodic spring rest during the critical growing period for plants. Consequently, it is believed that livestock grazing is a contributing factor. Therefore, Guideline 3.3 is not being satisfied, regarding grass understory production (volume by weight per plant).

Habitat indicators for Standard 3 refer to vegetative composition, structure, distribution, productivity, and nutritional value. Field observations revealed a diversity of various vegetation types. Professional field observations revealed that, at least, fifteen perennial species of shrubs; three perennial species of grasses; a variety of perennial and annual forb species; and at least three different species of cacti, are distributed in a patchy nature across the landscape within the allotment. A detailed list of these species is displayed in a table found under Standard 3 of the SDD in Appendix II of this EA.

However, even though a widely distributed variety of nutritional species exist which are capable of promoting sufficient structure, professional observations in the approximate southeast quadrant of the allotment - represented by KAs #2 and #4 - indicate that an appreciable abundance (by weight) of grass species is lacking with respect to the applicable Ecological Site Descriptions associated with these KAs. At these key area locations and in the surrounding vicinity, grass plants appeared small, wispy and consequently lacking in volume and vigor; and where fourwing saltbush occurred vicinal to these key areas, it appeared hedged. It is the southeast quadrant of the allotment, represented by these KAs, which receives spring grazing each year by livestock.

Consequently, in this portion of the allotment this does not allow for the type of root mass and subsequent above ground biomass development which lends itself to healthy, vigorous growing plants; especially grasses. It is believed that the annual spring grazing has steadily diminished the root systems of the grasses, causing above ground biomass to correspondingly diminish over time[3]; and is, most likely, a contributing causal factor for the low volume per plant of herbaceous ground cover observed on the allotment at KAs #2 and #4.

Collectively, this translates to reduced overall vegetative productivity, composition (abundance of species by weight) and structure; and indicates that this quadrant of the allotment needs periodic rest during the spring critical growing period.

3.3.1.2 Environmental Consequences

Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action the season of use would remain the same. However, fencing of the Crescent, Blowfly and Cutler reservoirs would occur. Subsequently, a rotational grazing system - as described under 2.1 above - would be introduced so that during any particular spring when the southwest quadrant of the allotment is grazed, the southeast quadrant is not and vice-versa.

Fencing the Crescent, Blowfly and Cutler Reservoirs would promote better control of livestock by making herding more effective, because reservoir water would not be accessible to livestock yearlong as is the current situation. Consequently this, in combination with strategically inactivating water hauls where needed, would make a rotational grazing system in the south half of the allotment possible.

With a rotational grazing system in place, grazing would not occur in the same areas in the south half of the allotment, every year, during most of the critical growing period for cool season plants. This would aid in favoring plant growth and seed set requirements necessary to promote healthy, vigorous plants by allowing such plants: to develop above ground biomass to help protect soils and provide desirable perennial cover for wildlife; to contribute to litter cover; and to continue to develop root masses which lends itself to improved carbohydrate storage for plant vigor and reproduction.

[3] Dietz, Harland E. 1989. Grass: the Stockman's Crop, How to Harvest More of It. Special Report. Sunshine Unlimited, Inc. 15 pp.

Consequently, the benefits to plant physiology, added soil protection and wildlife cover would be enhanced; the plant quality and volume of existing forage species would be promoted; and the potential loss of desired plant species, due to repeated spring grazing during the critical growing period for plants, would decline. Summarily, this would impact the desired forage base in a positive manner.

It is anticipated and reasonable to expect, then, that Standard 1 and the upland portion of Standard 2 would continue to be achieved; and that the Proposed Action would allow significant progress toward meeting Standard 3, because the negative impacts of repeated spring grazing during the critical growing period for plants, as discussed under 3.3.1.1, would be reversed.

The Proposed Action would also add other terms and conditions, regarding Allowable Use Levels, to the permit that would aid in achieving/maintaining the Mojave-Southern Great Basin Standards.

No Action Alternative

All of the mandatory terms and conditions of the current permit, as displayed under section 2.1.1, would remain unchanged. Because the fencing of Crescent, Blowfly and Cutler Reservoirs would not occur, the introduction of a rotational grazing system (BMP) in the south half of the allotment would not be feasible. This would annually allow grazing during the entire critical spring growing period for plants in this portion of the allotment. Consequently, the benefits to plant physiology and added soil protection and wildlife cover, as described under 2.1 of the Proposed Action, would be dramatically reduced; and the plant quality and volume of existing forage species would continue to decrease, possibly to the point of the eradication of some plant species; thereby, impacting the desired forage base in a highly negative manner.

Also, under the no action alternative, the terms and conditions listed under 2.1.2 in the Proposed Action and in Appendix III of this EA would not be included in the new permit. This would make such management practices difficult to enforce with no recourse for BLM regarding the court system.

No Grazing Alternative

For a short period of time following implementation, this may accomplish the same desired result as allowing periodic rest during the spring critical growing period for plants as presented under the proposed action by allowing perennial forage plants rest during the vital phonological stages of their annual growing cycle. However, according to studies this benefit would be short-lived.

In fact it is realized in the scientific community that, over time, grasses may become wolfy from lack of grazing use. If this occurs, substantial forage can become wasted, because current year's growth is intermixed with older, cured materials that are nutritionally deficient and present a physical barrier to cattle grazing. Such plants would also lose vigor and become less palatable, thereby contributing to less productive rangelands for either wildlife or domestic livestock that depend on such a forage base.

Anderson (1993) elaborated on the consequences of choosing a No Grazing option. He states: "After a period of time, ungrazed herbaceous fibrous-rooted plant species become decadent or stagnant. Annual above-ground growth is markedly reduced in volume and height. Root systems likely respond the same. The result is reduction in essential features of vegetational cover, including the replacement of soil organic matter and surface residues, and optimum capture of precipitation." He also lists two other consequences: "(1) loss of quality herbaceous forage for wild herbivores, causing them to move to areas where regrowth following livestock grazing provides succulent forage (Anderson 1989), and (2) increased hazard from wildfires that can be devastating from a rangeland watershed standpoint."

Courtois et. al. (2004) found that 65 years of protection from grazing on 16 exclosures, at different locations across Nevada, resulted in relatively few differences between vegetation inside the exclosures and that exposed to moderate grazing outside the exclosures. Where differences occurred, total vegetation cover was greater inside the exclosures while density was greater outside the exclosures. Protection from grazing failed to prevent expansion of cheatgrass into the exclosures (Ely PRMP/FEIS pg. 4.5–27).

4.0 Cumulative Effects

4.1 Past Actions

Livestock grazing operations in the planning area developed during the mid to late-1800s. The Ely PRMP/FEIS summarizes livestock grazing history in the region on pages 3.16–1 to 3.16–3. Range improvements have occurred on all allotment to improve grazing management and include fencing, stockwater developments, and vegetation treatments. The Ely PRMP/FEIS summarizes wild horse history in the west, specifically on the Ely District, on pages 3.8–1 to 3.8–7. Wild horse use has occurred throughout the project area since the 1800s.

Records dating back to 1900 indicate that there was one fire which occurred on the allotment. This was the Egypt Fire which occurred in 2006 and burned 131.2 acres.

No known vegetation treatments (e.g., chainings, seedings, sprayings, etc.) have been implemented on the allotment.

Precipitation in southern Nevada is highly variable with frequent drought periods. Precipitation data collected at the Bald Mountain BLM rain gage, for the years 1996-2010 (15 years) is displayed in Table 1 in Appendix VIII. The variability of precipitation ranged from 1.12 inches in 2002 to 11.56 inches in 2010.

4.2 Present Actions

The only permittee holding grazing privileges on the Bald Mountain Allotment is D/4 Enterprises.

Neither the allotment nor any of its portions are located within an HMA, Wilderness Study Area or within desert tortoise habitat. However, a small portion of the Mount Irish Wilderness falls within the extreme northeast portion of the allotment within the Mount Irish Range. This area is

characterized by steep, rugged terrain which is unattractive to livestock. There are no designated roads of any kind located within the portion of the wilderness area occurring inside the allotment boundary. There are no known riparian areas located within the allotment on BLM managed lands.

Widely dispersed incidental recreation occasionally occurs within the allotment in the form of hunting, trapping, 4-wheeling (OHV) and wildlife viewing.

4.3 Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions

Widely dispersed incidental recreation will continue into the future. Livestock grazing will continue under the existing grazing permit on the allotment. Upon expiration, the permit will be considered for renewal through site-specific NEPA analysis.

4.4 Cumulative Effects Summary

4.41 Proposed Action

According to page 36 of the 1994 BLM publication *Guidelines for Assessing and Documenting Cumulative Impacts*, the cumulative analysis should be focused on those issues and resource values where the incremental impact of the Proposed Action results in a meaningful change in the cumulative effect from other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions within the Cumulative Effects Study Area (CESA). In addition, a comprehensive cumulative impacts analysis can be found in section 4.28 of the Ely RMP/FEIS.

The CESA for this project is defined as the Bald Mountain Allotment.

Additionally, the guidance provided in The National BLM NEPA Handbook H-1790-1 (2008), for analyzing cumulative effects issues states, "determine which of the issues identified for analysis may involve a cumulative effect with other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions. If the proposed action and alternatives would have no direct or indirect effects on a resource, you do not need a cumulative effects analysis on that resource" (p.57).

A comprehensive cumulative impacts analysis can be found on pages 4.28-1 through 4.36-1 of the Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (November 2007).

The proposed action in conjunction with the past, present and reasonable foreseeable future actions would result in no noticeable overall changes to the affected environment. Grazing under the proposed permit renewal would aid in either making progress toward achievement or maintaining achievement of the Standards for Rangeland Health, with the understanding that adjustments to grazing management would occur when any of the Standards are not being achieved. Appropriate action would be taken as soon as practicable but not later than the start of the next grazing year upon determining that existing grazing management practices or levels of grazing use on public lands are significant factors in failing to achieve the standards and conform with the guidelines (43 CFR §4180.2 (c)).

No cumulative impacts of concern are anticipated as a result of the proposed action in combination with any other existing or planned activity.

4.42 No Action Alternative

Same cumulative effect as the Proposed Action

4.43 No Grazing Alternative

The No Grazing Alternative, in combination with interrelated projects, will not have any cumulative effects on rangeland health.

5.0 Proposed Mitigation and Monitoring

5.1 Proposed Mitigation

Outlined design features incorporated into the proposed action are sufficient. No additional mitigation is proposed based on the analysis of environmental consequences.

5.2 Proposed Monitoring

Appropriate monitoring has been included as part of the Proposed Action. No additional monitoring is proposed as a result of the impact analysis.

6.0 Consultation and Coordination

6.1 List of Preparers - BLM Resource Specialists

Domenic A. Bolognani	Rangeland Management Specialist/Project Lead
Chris Mayer	Supervisory Rangeland Management Specialist
Travis Young	NEPA Coordinator
Andrew Daniels	Wildlife, Special Status Species, Migratory Birds
Mark D'Aversa	Soil, Water, Wetlands and Riparian, Floodplains
Cameron Boyce	Noxious and Invasive, Non-native Species
Lorie Lesher	Cultural Resources
Nick Pay	Cultural Resources
Elvis Wall	Native American Cultural Concerns
Melanie Peterson	Hazardous & Solid Waste/Safety
Lisa Domina	Recreation, Visual Resources
Samuel Styles	Wilderness

6.2 Persons, Groups or Agencies Consulted

This Preliminary EA is being sent to the Interested Publics included on the annual Range Actions Interested Public Mailing List for 2011.

Public Notice of Availability

On December 16, 2010, the Ely BLM annual CCC letter was mailed which notified interested publics of the livestock grazing term permit renewals scheduled for 2011. The letter included D/4 Enterprises on the Bald Mountain Allotment for which no public scoping comments were received.

On December 29, 2010, a letter was sent to local Native American tribes requesting comments by January 21, 2011 regarding the permit renewal process for D/4 Enterprises on the Bald Mountain Allotment. No comments were received.

On March 23, 2011, D/4 Enterprises was sent a letter informing them of the proposed term permit renewal process scheduled for their allotment during 2011. No comments were received.

On June 10, 2011, the proposal to fully process the term permit, for D/4 Enterprises was submitted for posting on the Ely BLM internet site http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely_field_office.html).

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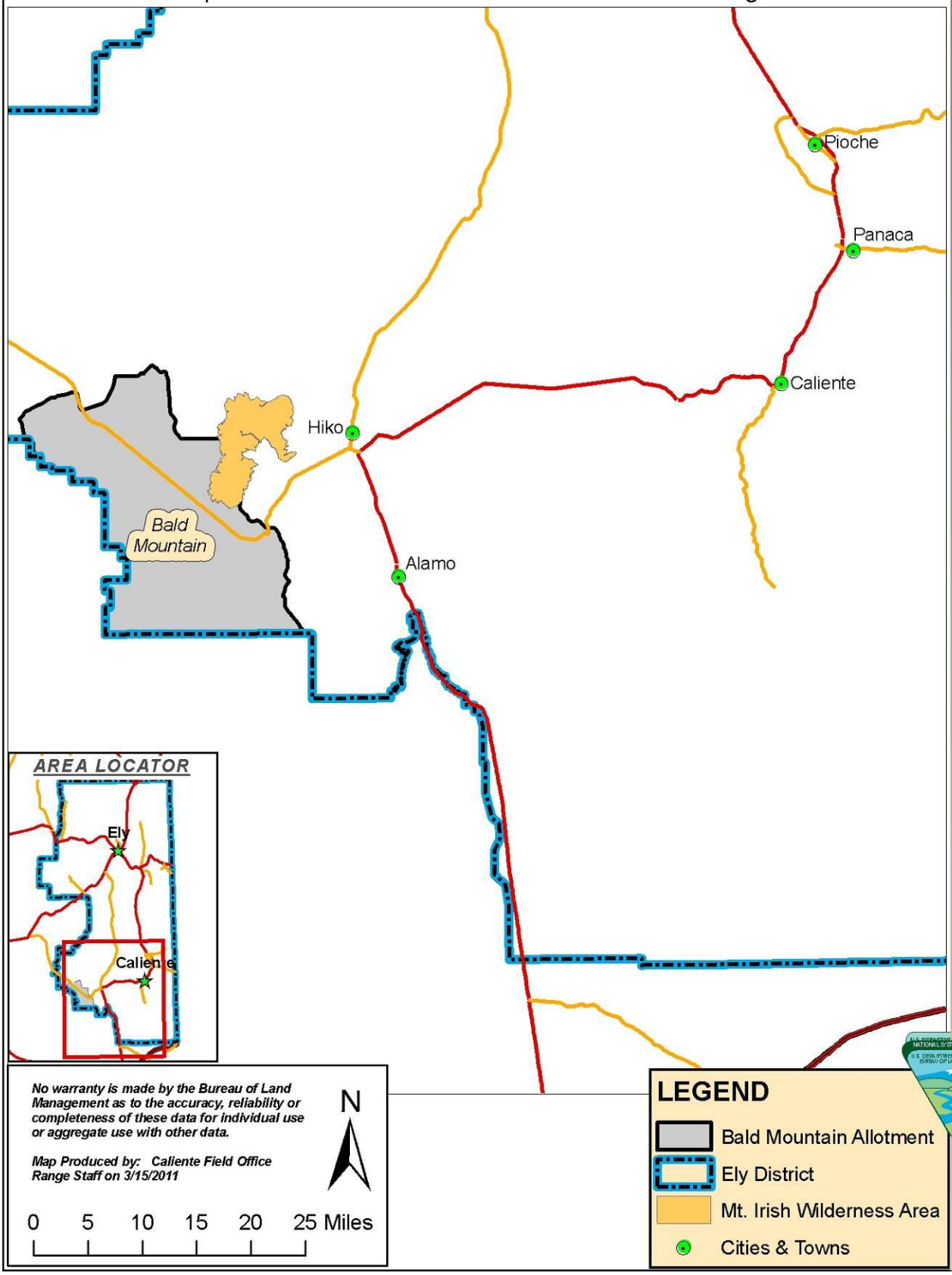
APPENDIX I

(EA)

MAP(S)

MAP #1

Location of the Bald Mountain Allotment (#21003)
with Respect to the Mt. Irish Wilderness Area and Surrounding Towns.



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

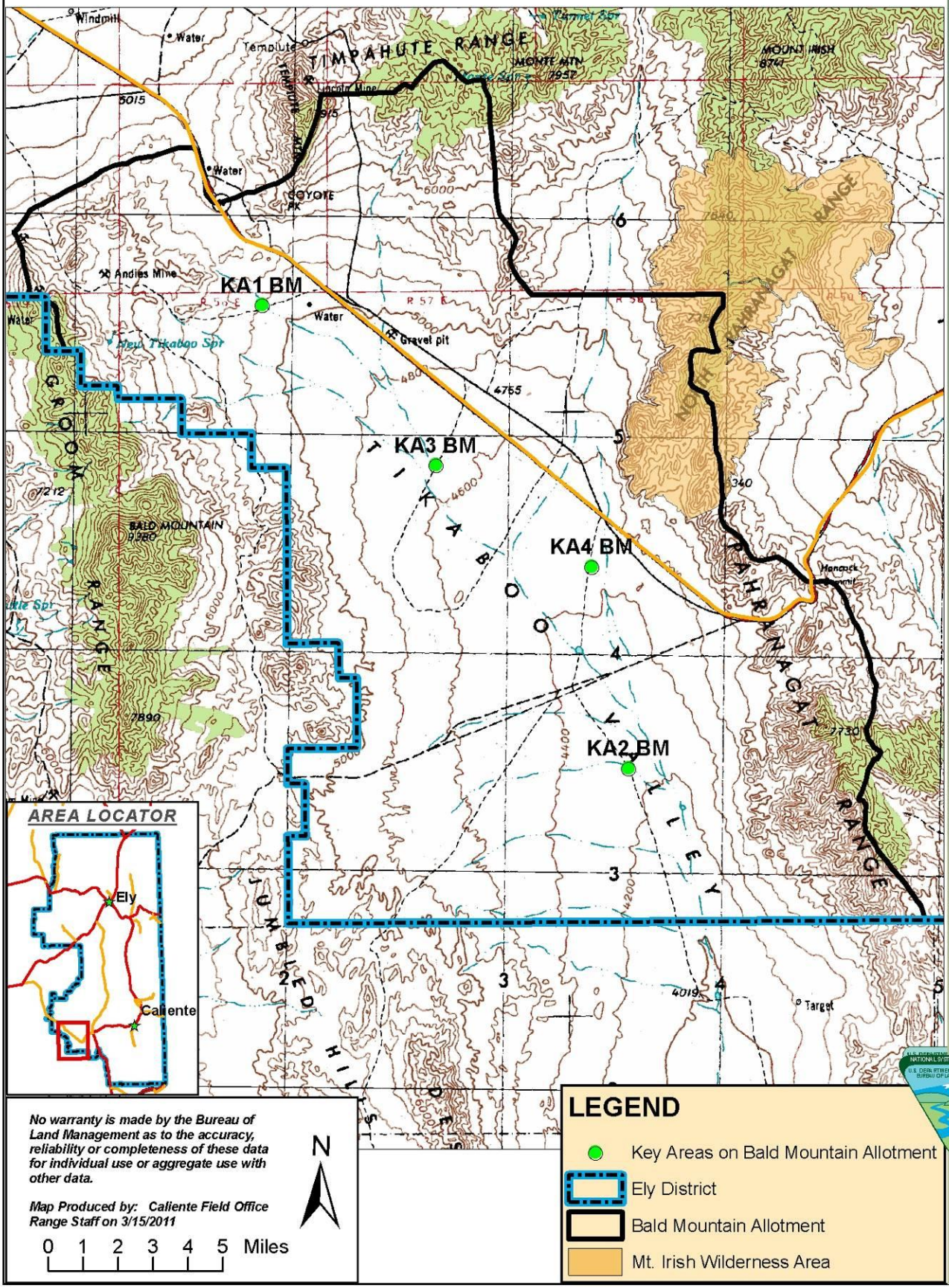
Map Produced by: Caliente Field Office Range Staff on 3/15/2011

BLM

Ely District Office

MAP #2

Location of the Mt. Irish Wilderness Area and the Four Key Areas within the Bald Mountain Allotment.



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Map Produced by: Caliente Field Office Range Staff on 3/15/2011

N

0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

LEGEND

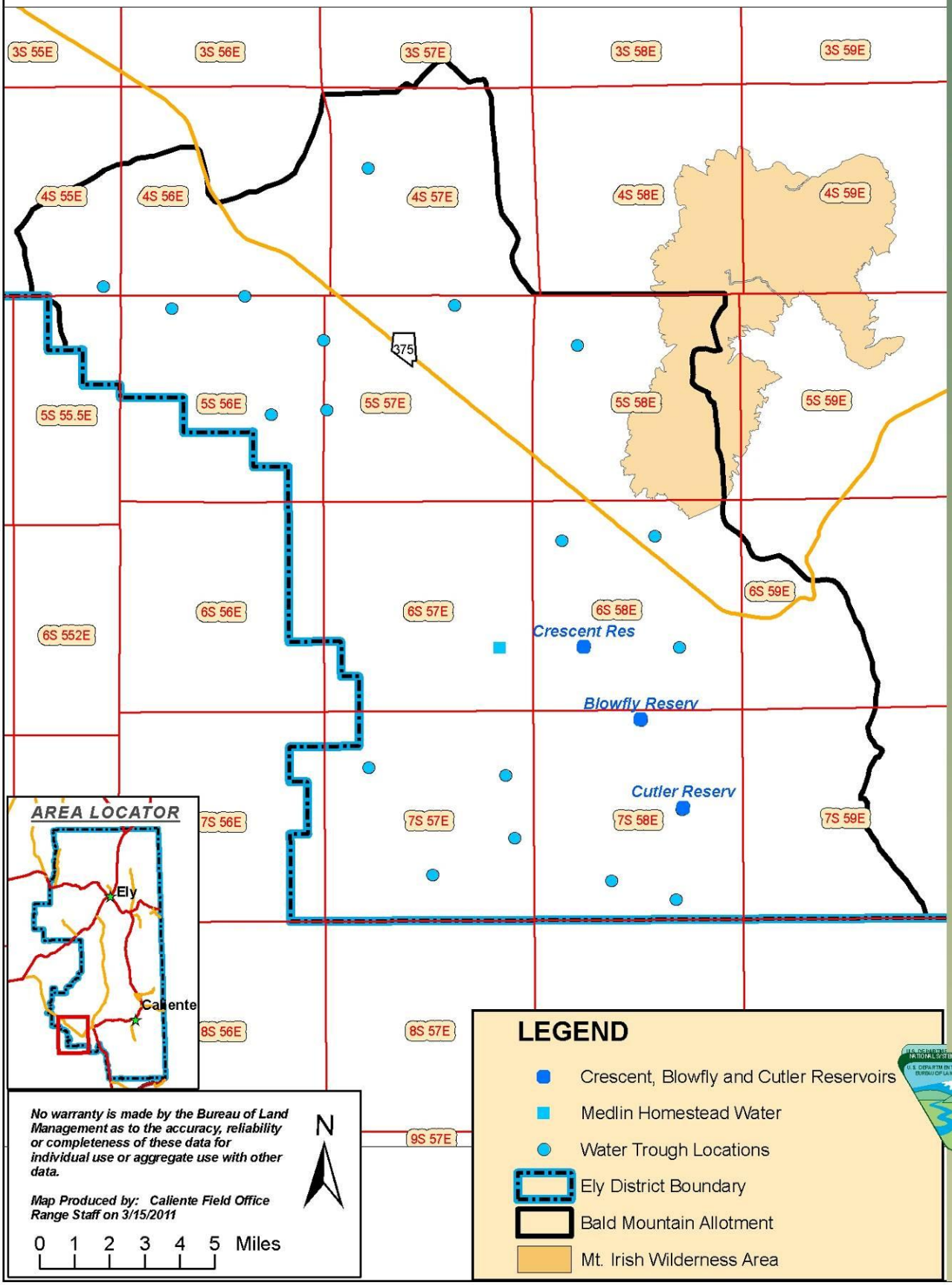
- Key Areas on Bald Mountain Allotment
- Ely District
- Bald Mountain Allotment
- Mt. Irish Wilderness Area

BLM

Ely District Office

MAP #3

Existing Livestock Watering Locations within the Bald Mountain Allotment.



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Map Produced by: Caliente Field Office Range Staff on 3/15/2011

BLM

Ely District Office

APPENDIX II

(EA)

STANDARDS DETERMINATION DOCUMENT

STANDARDS DETERMINATION DOCUMENT

Permit Renewal for D/4 Enterprises (#2705021) on the
Bald Mountain Allotment (#21003)

(DOI-BLM-NV-L030-2011-0011EA)

Standards and Guidelines Assessment

The Mojave-Southern Great Basin Standards and Guidelines for grazing administration were developed by the Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council (RAC) and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on February 12, 1997.

Standards of rangeland health are expressions of physical and biological conditions required for sustaining rangelands for multiple uses. Guidelines point to management actions related to livestock grazing for achieving the Standards. Guidelines are options that move rangeland conditions toward the multiple use Standards. Guidelines are based on science, best rangeland management practices and public input. Therefore, determination of rangeland health is based upon conformance with these standards.

This Standards Determination document evaluates and assesses livestock grazing management and achievement of the Standards and Guidelines for the Bald Mountain Allotment in the Ely District BLM. It does not evaluate or assess the Standards or Guidelines for Wild Horses and Burros. Publications used in assessing and determining achievement of the Standards include: Ely Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP) (August 2008); Sampling Vegetation Attributes; National Range and Pasture Handbook published by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Handbook; Utilization Studies and Residual Measurements; Nevada Plant List; and Major Land Resource Area (MLRA 29) Rangeland Ecological Site Descriptions. A complete list of references is included at the end of this document. These documents are available for public review at the Caliente Field Office during business hours.

The Bald Mountain Allotment encompasses approximately 218,229 acres. This water based allotment, having only one permittee, is located in the southwest portion of the Ely District BLM approximately 55 miles west of Caliente, Nevada near the town of Rachel (Appendix A, Map #1). The far, northwest portion of the allotment is located within the Sand Spring Valley watershed (#204), while the remainder of the allotment is situated in the Tikaboo Valley Watershed (#213). Elevations range from approximately 7,200 feet within the mountainous terrain which mostly occurs around the periphery of the allotment to approximately 1,400 feet in the central portion of the allotment.

Neither the allotment nor any of its portions are located within a Wild Horse Herd Management Area, Wilderness Study Area or within desert tortoise habitat. However, a small portion of the Mount Irish Wilderness Area falls within the extreme northeast portion of the allotment within

the Mount Irish Range (Appendix A, Maps #1, #2 and #3). The area within the wilderness is characterized by steep, rugged terrain which is attractive to livestock.

There are no known riparian areas located within the allotment on BLM managed lands. However, there are numerous watering locations scattered, throughout the allotment (Appendix A, Map #3).

There are four Key Areas (KAs) on the Allotment (Appendix A, Map #2). Cover data was obtained at the KAs in May 2008. Utilization data was obtained for the 2010 Grazing Year.

Table 1 in Appendix B displays grazing use on the allotment as AUMs Licensed and Percent of Active Use by Grazing Year (3/1 – 2/28) from March 1, 2006 through February 28, 2010 (5 years). The table also shows the Total Active Use and Season of Use for the allotment. During the past five years, grazing use on the allotment ranged from 82% to 98% of the Total Active Use (5,811 AUMs).

Table 2 in Appendix B shows a comparison of cover data, collected at all four KAs on the Bald Mountain Allotment, to Potential Natural Community (PNC) cover values for the applicable range site.

The Key Species Method was used in determining grazing use according to the Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Handbook (2006). This method is based on percent utilization of current year's growth, by weight. Cover data were obtained using the Line Intercept Method. The method is described in Sampling Vegetation Attributes (USDI-BLM et. al., 1996).

The following is an analysis of monitoring data which were used to evaluate applied management practices during the evaluation period. These data were used in determining if such management practices yielded results that were in conformance with the Mojave - Southern Great Basin Standards.

STANDARD 1. SOILS:

"*Watershed soils and stream banks should have adequate stability to resist accelerated erosion, maintain soil productivity, and sustain the hydrologic cycle.*"

Soil indicators:
- Ground cover (vegetation, litter, rock, bare ground);
- Surfaces (e.g., biological crusts, pavement); and
- Compaction/infiltration.

Riparian soil indicators:
- Stream bank stability.

All of the above upland indicators have been deemed appropriate to the potential of the ecological site.

Determination:

- **X Achieving the Standard**
- ☐ Not achieving the Standard, but making significant progress towards meeting the Standard.
- ☐ Not achieving the Standard, not making significant progress towards meeting the Standard.

Causal Factors:

- ☐ Livestock are a contributing factor to not meeting the standard.
- ☐ Livestock are not a contributing factor to not meeting the standard.
- ☐ Failure to meet the standard is related to other issues or conditions.

Guidelines Conformance:

- **X In conformance with the Guidelines**
- ☐ Not in conformance with the Guidelines

According to Soil Mapping Units and corresponding Rangeland Ecological Site Descriptions as determined by the NRCS, combined with professional field observations the following determinations were concluded for each of the four KAs on the Bald Mountain Allotment.

KA-1 was determined to be located in a Loamy 8-10" P.Z. (029XY006NV) which has the primary vegetative components of Wyoming big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis*) / Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymemoides*) – needleandthread (*Hesperostipa comata*) (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Overview of Study Site KA-1 showing existing vegetation.

Soils of this site are moderately deep to deep and well drained. Surface soils are moderately fine to medium textured and normally more than 10 inches thick to the subsoil or underlying material. The available water capacity is low to moderate and some soils are modified with high volumes of rock fragments through the soil profile. Soil reaction increases with soil depth. In some soils, slight or moderate concentrations of salts and sodium may accumulate in the lower subsoil or in the substratum. Runoff is slow to moderate.

According to the site description, potential ground cover (basal and crown) should range between 15 – 25%.

KA-2 was determined to be located in a Loamy 5-8" P.Z. (029XY017NV) which has the primary components of shadscale (*Atriplex confertifolia*) – bud sagebrush (*Picrothamnus desertorum*) / Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymemoides*) (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Overview of Study Site KA-2 showing existing vegetation.

The soils of this site are typically very deep and well drained. Some soils have a restrictive layer below the main plant rooting depth (at soil depths greater than 14 inches). Surface layers are usually gravelly or very gravelly and have less than 20 percent clay. Surface soils are moderately to strongly alkaline, non-saline to slightly saline, and non-sodic to very slightly sodic. Water intake rates are moderate, available water capacity is very low to low, and runoff is medium. There may be a thin crusting of the soil surface layer. The penetration resistance of moist surface soils is expected to be extremely low to moderate.

According to the site description, potential ground cover (basal and crown) should range between 15 – 25%.

KA-3 was determined to be located in a Droughty Loamy 5-8" P.Z. (029XY079NV) which has the primary vegetative components of Spiny Hopsage (*Grayia spinosa*) – Nevada ephedra

(*Ephedra nevadensis*) / Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymemoides*) – desert needlegrass (*Hesperostipa comata*) (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Overview of Study Site KA-3 showing existing vegetation.

The soils of this site are moderately deep to deep alluvium derived primarily from volcanic rock sources. Soil textures throughout the soil profile are loams to gravelly loams. Some soils may have a restrictive layer below the main plant rooting depth. Water intake rates are moderate and permeability is moderately slow to moderately rapid. Available water holding capacity is very low to moderate, runoff is slow and the soils are well drained.

According to the site description, potential ground cover (basal and crown) should range between 20 – 30%.

KA-4 was determined to be located in a Sandy Loam 5-8" P.Z. (029XY046NV) which has the primary components of fourwing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*) – winterfat (*Krascheninnikovia lanata*) / Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymemoides*) (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Overview of Study Site KA-4 showing existing vegetation.

The soils of this site are typically moderately deep to deep and well drained. These soils have coarse textured surfaces which are generally underlain at shallow depths by a layer restrictive to root development. Water infiltration is moderate to high, available water capacity is low, and runoff is slow.

According to the site description, potential ground cover (basal and crown) should range between 15 – 25%.

Table 2 in Appendix B summarizes these findings.

Utilization data, reflecting use during the 2010 grazing year (March 1, 2009 – February 28, 2010) at KA-1, KA-2, KA-3 and KA-4 was 19%, 16%, 21% and 22%, respectively. This represents Slight (1% - 20%) to Light (21% - 40%) use.

Conclusion: *Standard 1 Achieved*

Grazing use data indicates that overgrazing is not an issue.

Ground cover, composed of various shrubs and grasses, at each of the four KAs was within the acceptable values as described in the applicable Ecological Rangeland Site Description.

Field observations on the allotment have substantiated that soils were stable, native plants were not pedestalled and there were no signs of soil compaction. This indicates that the allotment has sufficient vegetative cover to maintain stability and to resist accelerated erosion, maintain soil productivity and, thus, sustain the hydrologic cycle. It further indicates that there is minimal wind and/or water erosion of topsoil, and apparent appropriate infiltration of water from snowmelt and rainfall.

Collectively, slight to light grazing intensities and sufficient live vegetative cover infers litter production that further adds to increased soil protection and stability. Field observations have substantiated various amounts of scattered litter throughout the allotment.

STANDARD 2 ECOSYSTEM COMPONENTS:

"Watersheds should possess the necessary ecological components to achieve state water quality criteria, maintain ecological processes, and sustain appropriate uses."

"Riparian and wetlands vegetation should have structural and species diversity characteristic of the stage of stream channel succession in order to provide forage and cover, capture sediment, and capture, retain, and safely release water (watershed function)."

Upland indicators:

- Canopy and ground cover, including litter, live vegetation, biological crust, and rock appropriate to the potential of the ecological site.
- Ecological processes are adequate for the vegetative communities.

Riparian indicators:

- Stream side riparian areas are functioning properly when adequate vegetation, large woody debris, or rock is present to dissipate stream energy associated with high water flows.
- Elements indicating proper functioning condition such as avoiding acceleration erosion, capturing sediment, and providing for groundwater recharge and release are determined by the following measurements as appropriate to the site characteristics:

    - Width/Depth ratio;
    - Channel roughness;
    - Sinuosity of stream channel;
    - Bank stability;
    - Vegetative cover (amount, spacing, life form); and
    - Other cover (large woody debris, rock).

- Natural springs, seeps, and marsh areas are functioning properly when adequate vegetation is present to facilitate water retention, filtering, and release as indicated by plant species and cover appropriate to the site characteristics.

Water quality indicators:

- Chemical, physical and biological constituents do not exceed the state water quality standards.

<u>Determination</u>:

X Meeting the Standard

☐ Not meeting the Standard, but making significant progress towards meeting the Standard.

☐ Not meeting the Standard, not making significant progress towards meeting the Standard.

Causal Factors:

- ☐ Livestock are a contributing factor to not meeting the standard.
- ☐ Livestock are a contributing factor to not meeting the standard.
- ☐ Failure to meet the standard is related to other issues or conditions.

Guidelines Conformance:

- **X In conformance with the Guidelines**
- ☐ Not in conformance with the Guidelines

Conclusion: *Standard 2*

Upland Ecosystem Components - *Achieved*
Riparian Habitat Components – *Not Applicable*

Uplands

Data and field observations relating to soils, hydrologic processes, canopy and ground cover were discussed in Standard 1 which was achieved. Observed live vegetation species and other ground cover characteristics are discussed in Standard 3.

Riparian

There are no known riparian areas found on public lands within the Bald Mountain Allotment.

STANDARD 3 HABITAT AND BIOTA:

"Habitats and watersheds should sustain a level of biodiversity appropriate for the area and conducive to appropriate uses. Habitats of special status species should be able to sustain viable populations of those species."

Habitat indicators:

- Vegetation composition (relative abundance of species);
- Vegetation structure (life forms, cover, height, and age classes);
- Vegetation distribution (patchiness, corridors);
- Vegetation productivity; and
- Vegetation nutritional value.

Wildlife indicators:

- Escape terrain;
- Relative abundance;
- Composition;
- Distribution;
- Nutritional value; and

- Edge-patch snags.

The above indicators shall be applied to the potential of the ecological site.

Determination:

☐ Achieving the Standard
☐ Not achieving the Standard, but making significant progress towards meeting the Standard.
X **Not achieving the Standard, not making significant progress towards meeting the Standard in the southeast quadrant of the allotment.**

Causal Factors:

X Livestock are a contributing factor to not meeting the standard.
☐ Livestock are not a contributing factor to not meeting the standard.
☐ Failure to meet the standard is related to other issues or conditions.

Guidelines:

☐ In conformance with the Guidelines
X Not in conformance with the Guidelines

General field observations revealed that, at least, fifteen perennial species of shrubs; three perennial species of grasses; a variety of perennial and annual forb species; and at least three different species of cacti, exist in a patchy network within the allotment. The following table displays these observations of species which were identifiable:

Shrubs	Grasses	Forbs	Cacti
Key Area #1			
Wyoming big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis*)	Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*)	Milkvetch (*Astragalus spp.*)	Cholla (*Opuntia spp.*)
Nevada ephedra (*Ephedra nevadensis*)	Squirreltail *(Elymus elymoides)*	Desert globemallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*)	Prickly pear (*Opuntia spp.*)
Anderson's wolfberry (*Lycium andersonii*)	Galleta (*Pleuraphis jamesii*)		
Spiny Hopsage (*Grayia Spinosa*)	Sixweeks fescue (*Vulpia octoflora*)		
Douglas rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus*)			
Spiny menodora (*Menodora spinescens*)			
Shockley's goldenhead (*Acamptopappus shockleyi*)			
Key Area #2			
Shadscale (*Atriplex confertifolia*)	Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*)	Desert globemallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*)	
Bud sagebrush (*Picrothamnus desertorum*)	Squirreltail *(Elymus elymoides)*		
Winterfat (*Krascheninnikovia lanata*)			
Spiny hopsage (*Grayia Spinosa*)			
Nevada ephedra (*Ephedra nevadensis*)			

Fourwing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens)*			
Anderson's wolfberry (*Lycium andersonii*)			
Shockley's goldenhead (*Acamptopappus shockleyi*)			
Littleleaf Horsebrush (*Tetradymia glabrata*)			
Threadleaf snakeweed (*Gutierrezia microcephala*)			
Key Area #3			
Spiny hopsage (*Grayia Spinosa*)	Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*)	Desert globemallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*)	
Nevada ephedra (*Ephedra nevadensis*)	Galleta (*Pleuraphis jamesii*)		
Fourwing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens)*	Squirreltail *(Elymus elymoides)*		
Winterfat (*Krascheninnikovia lanata*)			
Bud sagebrush (*Picrothamnus desertorum*)			
Anderson's wolfberry (*Lycium andersonii*)			
Douglas rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus*)			
Littleleaf Horsebrush (*Tetradymia glabrata*)			
Threadleaf snakeweed (*Gutierrezia microcephala*)			
Burrobush (*Hymenoclea Salsola*)			
Key Area #4			
Fourwing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens)*	Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*)	Desert globemallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*)	Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*)
Winterfat (*Krascheninnikovia lanata*)	Galleta (*Pleuraphis jamesii*)		
Bud sagebrush (*Picrothamnus desertorum*)	Squirreltail *(Elymus elymoides)*		
Spiny hopsage (*Grayia Spinosa*)			
Anderson's wolfberry (*Lycium andersonii*)			
Horsebrush (*Tetradymia spp.*)			
Douglas rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus*)			

Conclusion: *Standard 3 Not Achieved*

Habitat indicators for Standard 3 refer to vegetative composition, structure, distribution, productivity, and nutritional value.

Field observations revealed a diversity of various vegetation types that are distributed in a patchy nature across the landscape within the allotment.

However, even though a widely distributed variety of nutritional species exist which are capable of promoting sufficient structure, professional observations in the approximate southeast quadrant of the allotment - represented by KAs #2 and #4 - indicate that an appreciable abundance (by weight) of grass species is lacking with respect to the applicable Ecological Site

Descriptions associated with these KAs. At these key area locations and in the surrounding vicinity, grass plants appeared small, wispy and consequently lacking in volume and vigor; and where fourwing saltbush occurred vicinal to these key areas, it appeared hedged. It is the southeast quadrant of the allotment, represented by these KAs, which receives spring grazing each year by livestock.

Collectively, this translates to reduced overall vegetative productivity, composition (abundance of species by weight) and structure; and indicates that this quadrant of the allotment needs periodic rest during the spring critical growing period.

PART 2. ARE LIVESTOCK A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO NOT MEETING THE STANDARDS?

Standard 1 is being achieved. The upland portion of Standard 2 is being achieved, while the riparian portion of this Standard 2 is not applicable.

However, Standard 3 is not being achieved in the approximate south half of the allotment. Crescent, Blowfly and Cutler Reservoirs (Map #3, Appendix A) are located in this portion of the allotment. These reservoirs are not fenced and contain water yearlong. Because of the lack of fencing, controlling livestock becomes difficult and consequently ineffective. When livestock are herded to other areas within the allotment they migrate back to the southeast quadrant where the reservoirs are located. Hence, the area receives use yearlong which doesn't allow periodic spring rest during the critical growing period for plants, and it is believed that livestock grazing is a contributing factor. Therefore, Guideline 3.3 is not being satisfied, regarding grass understory production (volume by weight per plant).

Consequently, in this portion of the allotment this does not allow for the type of root mass and subsequent above ground biomass development which lends itself to healthy, vigorous growing plants; especially grasses. It is believed that the annual spring grazing has steadily diminished the root systems of the grasses, causing above ground biomass to correspondingly diminish over time[4]; and is, most likely, a contributing causal factor for the low volume per plant of herbaceous ground cover observed on the allotment at KAs #2 and #4.

PART 3. GUIDELINE CONFORMANCE REVIEW and SUMMARY

GUIDELINES for *SOILS* (Standard 1):

See Conclusion for Standard 1, and Part 2 above.

Technically, overall ground cover was within the acceptable values, as explained under Standard 1, and therefore satisfies Guideline 1.1. The remaining three Guidelines are not applicable to the assessment area at this time.

[4] Dietz, Harland E. 1989. Grass: the Stockman's Crop, How to Harvest More of It. Special Report. Sunshine Unlimited, Inc. 15 pp.

However, regarding grass understory production (volume by weight per plant), a rotational grazing system needs to be introduced in an effort to promote a more voluminous herbaceous component in the understory.

GUIDELINES for *ECOSYSTEM COMPONENTS* (Standard 2):

See Conclusion for Standard 2, and Part 2 above.

Uplands

Management practices are in conformance with Guidelines 2.3 and 2.4. The remaining six Guidelines are not applicable to the assessment area at this time.

Riparian

There are no known riparian areas found on public lands within the Bald Mountain Allotment. Therefore, Standard 2 and associated Guidelines, regarding the riparian portion of this standard, are not applicable.

GUIDELINES for *HABITAT AND BIOTA* (Standard 3):

See Conclusion for Standard 3, and Part 2 above.

Current livestock grazing management practices conform to Guidelines 3.1, 3.2 and 3.4.

Guideline 3.3 is not being satisfied, regarding grass understory production (volume by weight per plant) due to previously explained reasons. A rotational grazing system in the approximate south half of the allotment needs to be introduced in an effort to promote a more voluminous herbaceous component in the understory in this portion of the allotment.

The remaining five Guidelines are not applicable to the assessment area at this time.

PART 4. MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TO CONFORM WITH GUIDELINES AND ACHIEVE STANDARDS

1. Maintain the full Active Use of the current term permit (5,811 AUMs). However, the authorization of 5,811 AUMs, during any given year, will be based on annual forage availability and the terms and conditions and the Best Management Practices included in the new term permit.

2. Construct fence exclosures (with gates) around Crescent, Blowfly and Cutler Reservoirs to allow livestock access to these watering locations only when desired by the permittee. This will provide better control of livestock by making herding more effective.

Incorporate the following Best Management Practice into the new Term Grazing Permit:

3. Introduce a rotational grazing system, in the approximate south half of the allotment, using watering locations as a controlling factor (Appendix A, Map #2):

   In the southeast quadrant of the allotment, during the first spring (approximately 3/1 – 5/15), water hauls will be inactivated (dried-up) and gates to the three functional reservoirs - Cutler, Blowfly and Crescent reservoirs - will be closed. This will include the all watering locations in T.6 S., R.58 E. and T.7 S., R.58 E.

   During this period, waters in the southwest quadrant of the allotment will be utilized and livestock will be herded to this area. This will include the all watering locations in T.6 S., R.57 E. and T.7 S., R.57 E. Periodic herding will occur, as necessary, to keep livestock from migrating to the southeast quadrant of the allotment. After approximately 5/15 the livestock will be moved to the approximate north half of the allotment to graze the summer and fall months.

   During the following spring (second spring) (approximately 3/1 – 5/15), the waters located in the southeast quadrant of the allotment, inactivated during the first spring, will be utilized and livestock will be herded to this area; while the waters utilized during the first spring, in the southwest quadrant of the allotment, will be inactivated (water haul locations dried-up). Periodic herding will occur, as necessary, to keep livestock from migrating to the southwest quadrant of the allotment which was used the previous spring. Again, after approximately 5/15 the livestock will be moved to the approximate north half of the allotment to graze during the summer and fall months.

   This rotational procedure will be perpetuated, so that during any particular spring when the southwest quadrant of the allotment is grazed, the southeast quadrant is not and vice-versa.

Include the following Terms and Conditions into the Permit:

4. Allowable Use Levels on current year's growth of upland vegetation (grasses, forbs and shrubs) within the Bald Mountain Allotment - during the authorized grazing use period - will not exceed 45%.

5. Livestock will be moved to another authorized pasture or removed from the allotment before utilization objectives are met or no later than 5 days after meeting the utilization objectives. Any deviation in livestock movement will require authorization from the authorized officer.

To address the Mount Irish Wilderness Area, created through the Lincoln County Conservation Recreation and Development Act P.L. 108-424, the following term and condition will be added to comply with the Wilderness Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-577)

(see Congressional Grazing Guidelines in **Appendix C**):

6. No motorized access is permitted within the designated Mount Irish Wilderness Area without approval of the District Manager. Occasional motorized access may be permitted for emergency situations, or where practical alternatives for reasonable grazing management needs are not available and such use would not have a significant adverse impact on the natural environment.

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Specialists:

Andrew Daniels – Wildlife Biologist	Date
Mark D'Aversa – Soil, Water & Air Quality, Floodplains & Riparian	Date
Cameron Boyce – Noxious and Invasive Weeds	Date

Prepared by:

Domenic A. Bolognani – Rangeland Management Specialist	Date

Reviewed by:

Chris Mayer – Supervisory Rangeland Management Specialist	Date

I concur:

Victoria Barr – Caliente Field Manager	Date

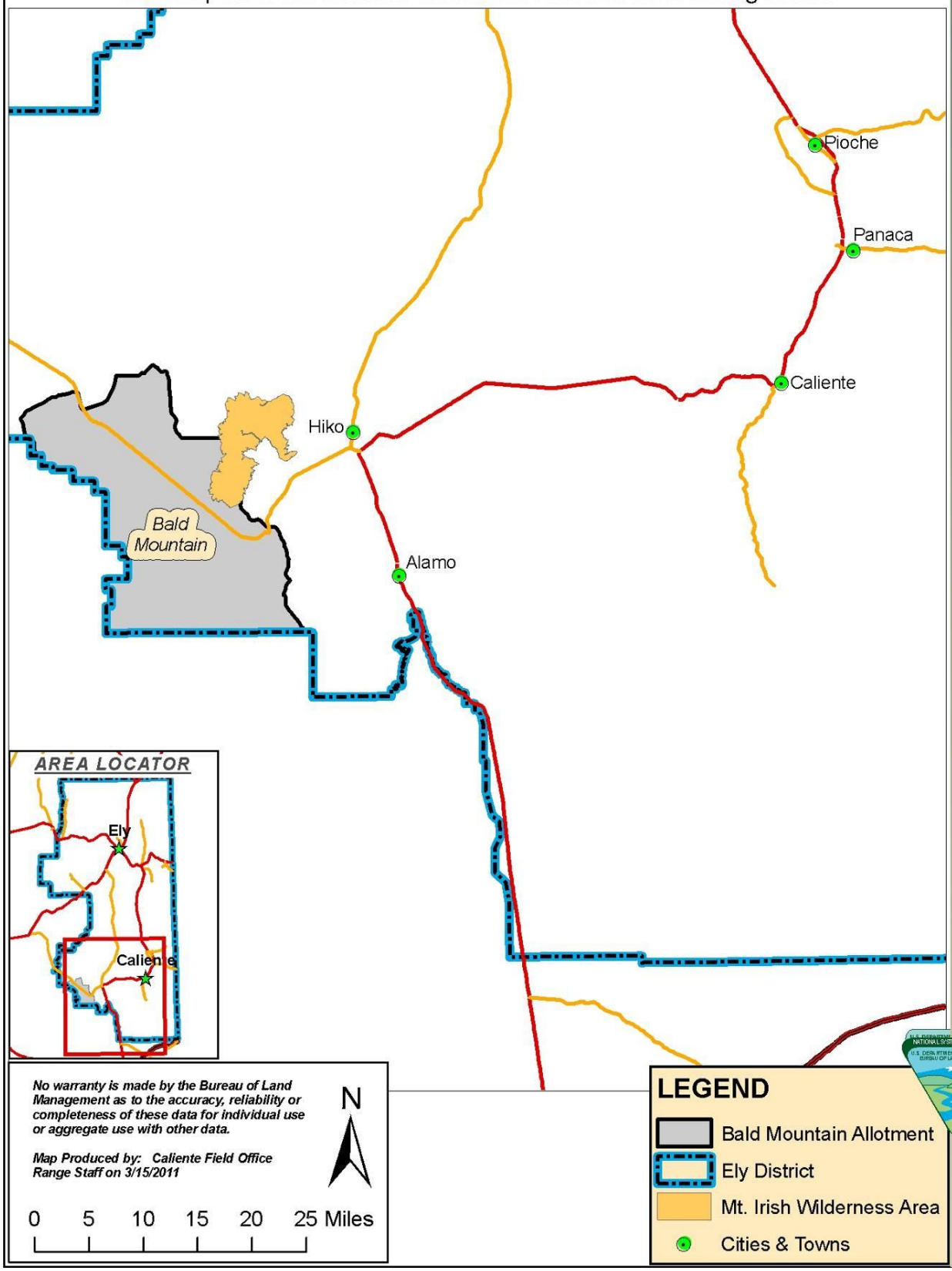
APPENDIX A

(Standards Determination Document)

MAPS

MAP #1

Location of the Bald Mountain Allotment (#21003)
with Respect to the Mt. Irish Wilderness Area and Surrounding Towns.



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

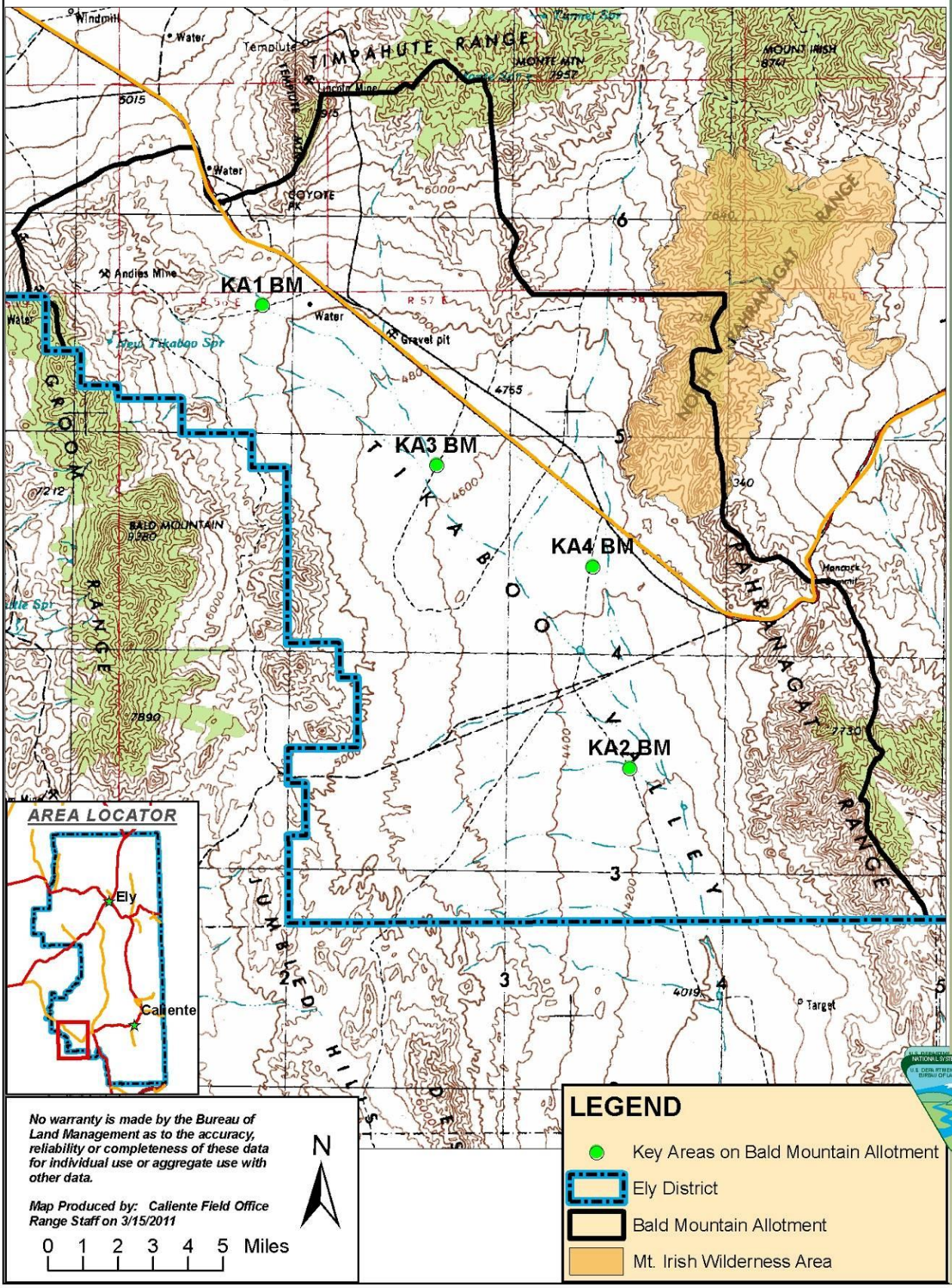
Map Produced by: Caliente Field Office Range Staff on 3/15/2011

BLM

Ely District Office

MAP #2

Location of the Mt. Irish Wilderness Area and the Four Key Areas within the Bald Mountain Allotment.



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

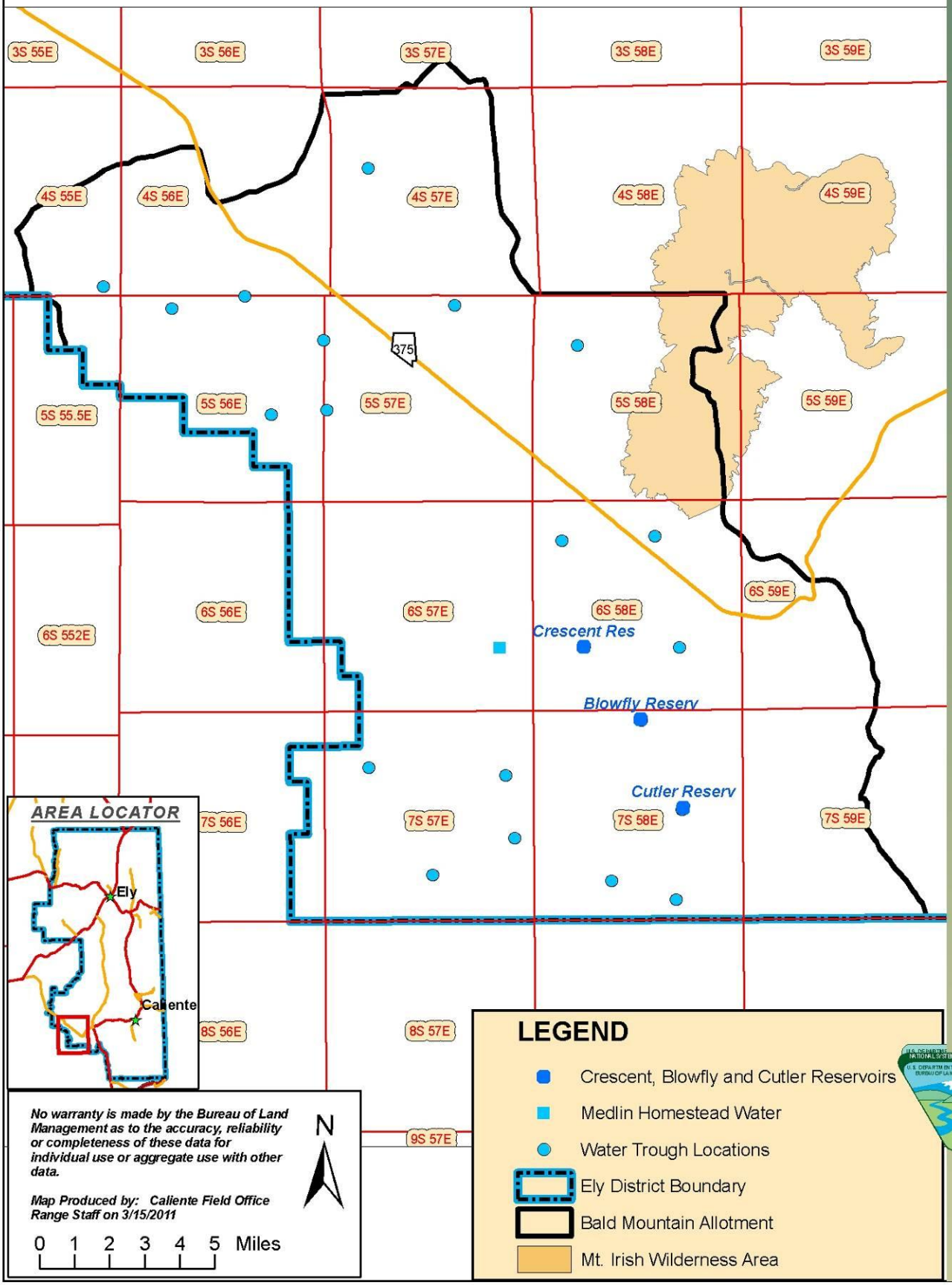
Map Produced by: Caliente Field Office Range Staff on 3/15/2011

BLM

Ely District Office

MAP #3

Existing Livestock Watering Locations within the Bald Mountain Allotment.



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Map Produced by: Caliente Field Office Range Staff on 3/15/2011

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APPENDIX B

(Standards Determination Document)

TABLES

Table 1. Annual Livestock Grazing Use for Permit Number 2705021 on the Bald Mountain Allotment - as AUMs Licensed and Percent of Active Use by Grazing Year - from March 1, 2006 through February 28, 2011 (5 years).

Allotment/Active Use/Season of Use	Grazing Year (3/1 – 2/28)	AUMs Licensed	% of Total Active Use
Bald Mountain Allotment (Total Active Use = 5, 811 AUMs) Season of Use = Yearlong (3/1 – 2/28)	2006	5,692	98%
	2007	4,785	82%
	2008	4,991	86%
	2009	4,786	82%
	2010	4,256	73%
5 Year Average		1,350.27	0.84%

Table 2. Comparison of Cover Data, Collected at the Four Key Areas on the Bald Mountain Allotment, to Potential Natural Community (PNC) Cover Values for the Applicable Range Sites.

Key Area	Range Site	Associated Vegetation Type	% Cover at PNC In Applicable Rangeland Site Description	% Cover Collected at Key Areas
KA-1	Loamy 8-10" P.Z. (029XY006NV)	ARTRW / ACHY – HECO26	15 – 25%	24.2
KA-2	Loamy 5-8" P.Z. (029XY017NV)	ATCO – ARSP5 / ACHY	15 – 25%	18.8
KA-3	Droughty Loamy 5-8" P.Z. (029XY079NV)	GRSP – EPNE / ACHY – ACSP2	20 – 30%	32.2
KA-4	Loam 5-8" P.Z. (029XY046NV)	ATCA2 – KRLA2 / ACHY	15 – 25%	15.2

APPENDIX C

(Standards Determination Document)

CONGRESSIONAL GRAZING GUIDELINES

Congressional Grazing Guidelines

(Excerpt from House Report 96-1126)

Grazing in National Forest Wilderness Areas

Section 4(d)(4)(2) of the Wilderness Act states: "the grazing of livestock, where established prior to the effective date of this Act, shall be permitted to continue subject to such reasonable regulations as are deemed necessary by the Secretary of Agriculture."

The legislative history of this language is very clear in its intent that livestock grazing, and activities and the necessary facilities to support a livestock grazing program, will be permitted to continue in National Forest wilderness areas, when such grazing was established prior to classification of an area as wilderness.

Including those areas established in the Wilderness Act of 1964. Congress has designated some 188 areas, covering lands administered by the Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System. A number of these areas contain active grazing programs, which are conducted pursuant to existing authorities. In all such cases, when enacting legislation classifying an area as wilderness, it has been the intent of the Congress, based on solid evidence developed by testimony at public hearings, that the practical language of the Wilderness Act would apply to grazing within wilderness areas administered by all Federal agencies, not just the Forest Service. In fact, special language appears in all wilderness legislation, the intent of which is to assure that the applicable provisions of the Wilderness Act, including Section 4(d)(4)(2), will apply to all wilderness areas, regardless of agency jurisdiction.

Further, during the 95th Congress, Congressional committees became increasingly disturbed that, despite the language of section 4(d)(4)(2) of the Wilderness Act and despite a history of nearly 15 years in addressing and providing guidance to the wilderness management agencies for development of wilderness management policies, National Forest administrative regulations and policies were acting to discourage grazing in wilderness, or unduly restricting on-the-ground activities necessary for proper grazing management. To address this problem, two House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs Reports (95-620 and 95- 1821) specifically provided guidance as to how section 4(d)(4)(2) of the Wilderness Act should be interpreted. This guidance appeared in these reports as follows:

Section 4(d)(4)(2) of the Wilderness Act states that grazing in wilderness areas, if established prior to designation of the area as wilderness, "shall be permitted to continue subject to such reasonable regulations as are deemed necessary by the Secretary of Agriculture". To clarify any lingering doubts, the committee wishes to stress that this language means that there shall be no curtailment of grazing permits or privileges in an area simply because it is designated as wilderness. As stated in the Forest Service regulations (36 CFR 293.7), grazing in wilderness areas ordinarily will be controlled under the general regulations governing grazing of livestock on National Forests* * *. This includes the establishment of normal range allotments and allotment management plans. Furthermore, wilderness designation should not prevent the maintenance of existing fences or other livestock management improvements, nor the

construction and maintenance of new fences or improvements which are consistent with allotment management plans and/or which are necessary for the protection of the range.

Despite the language of these two reports, RARE II hearings and field inspection trips in the 96 Congress have revealed that National Forest administrative policies on grazing in wilderness are subject to varying interpretations in the field, and are fraught with pronouncements that simply are not in accordance with section 4(d)(4)(2) of the Wilderness Act. This had led to demands on the part of grazing permittees that section 4(d)(4)(2) of the Wilderness Act be amended to clarify the intentions of Congress. However, because of the great diversity of conditions under which grazing uses (including different classes of livestock) are managed on the public lands, the Conferees feel that the original broad language of the Wilderness Act is best left unchanged. Any attempts to draft specific statutory language covering grazing in the entire wilderness system (presently administered by four separate agencies in two different Departments) might prove to be unduly rigid in a specific area, and deprive the land management agencies of flexible opportunities to manage grazing in a creative and realistic site specific fashion.

Therefore, the conferees declined to amend section 4(d)(4)(2) of the Wilderness Act, agreeing instead to reaffirm the existing language and to include the following nationwide guidelines and specific statements of legislative policy. It is the intention of the conferees that the guidelines and policies be considered in the overall context of the purposes and direction of the Wilderness Act of 1964 and this Act, and that they be promptly, fully, and diligently implemented and made available to Forest Service personnel at all levels and to all holders of permits for grazing in National Forest Wilderness areas:

1. There shall be no curtailments of grazing in wilderness areas simply because an area is, or has been designated as wilderness, nor should wilderness designations be used as an excuse by administrators to slowly "phase out" grazing. Any adjustments in the numbers of livestock permitted to graze in wilderness areas should be made as a result of revisions in the normal grazing and land management planning and policy setting process, giving consideration to legal mandates, range condition, and the protection of the range resource from deterioration.

   It is anticipated that the numbers of livestock permitted to graze in wilderness would remain at the approximate levels existing at the time an area enters the wilderness system. If land management plans reveal conclusively that increased livestock numbers or animal unit months (AUMs) could be made available with no adverse impact on wilderness values such as plant communities, primitive recreation, and wildlife populations or habitat, some increases in AUMs may be permissible. This is not to imply, however, that wilderness lends itself to AUM or livestock increases and construction of substantial new facilities that might be appropriate for intensive grazing management in non-wilderness areas.

2. The maintenance of supporting facilities, existing in the area prior to its classification as wilderness (including fences, line cabins, water wells and lines, stock tanks, etc.), is permissible in wilderness.

Where practical alternatives do not exist, maintenance or other activities may be accomplished through the occasional use of motorized equipment. This may include, for example, the use of backhoes to maintain stock ponds, pickup trucks for major fence repairs, or specialized equipment to repair stock watering facilities. Such occasional use of motorized equipment should be expressly authorized in the grazing permits for the area involved. The use of motorized equipment should be based on a rule of practical necessity and reasonableness. For example, motorized equipment need not be allowed for the placement of small quantities of salt or other activities where such activities can reasonably and practically be accomplished on horseback or foot. On the other hand, it may be appropriate to permit the occasional use of motorized equipment to haul large quantities of salt to distribution points. Moreover, under the rule of reasonableness, occasional use of motorized equipment should be permitted where practical alternatives are not available and such use would not have a significant adverse impact on the natural environment. Such motorized equipment uses will normally only be permitted to those portions of a wilderness area where they had occurred prior to the area's designation as wilderness or are established by prior agreement.

3. The placement or reconstruction of deteriorated facilities or improvements should not be required to be accomplished using "natural materials", unless the material and labor costs of using natural materials are such that their use would not impose unreasonable additional costs on grazing permittees.

4. The construction of new improvements or replacement of deteriorated facilities wilderness is permissible if in accordance with those guidelines and management plans governing the area involved. However, the construction of new improvements should be primarily for the purpose of resource protection and the more effective management of these resources rather than to accommodate increased numbers of livestock.

5. The use of motorized equipment for emergency purposes such as rescuing sick animals or the placement of feed in emergency situations is also permissible. This privilege is to be exercised only in true emergencies, and should not be abused by permittees.

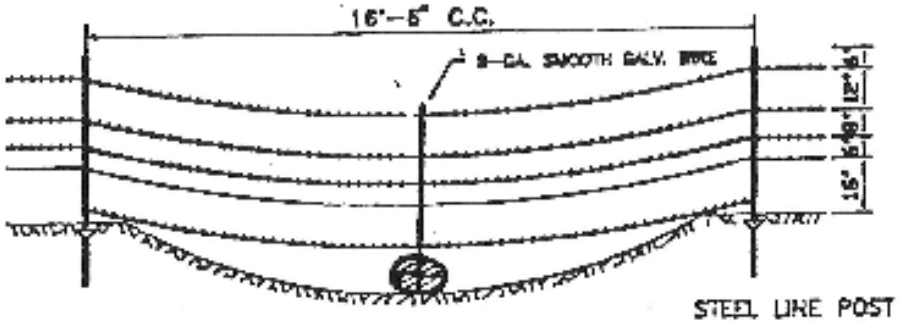
In summary, subject to the conditions and policies outlined above, the general rule of thumb on grazing management in wilderness should be that activities or facilities established prior to the date of an area's designation as wilderness should be allowed to remain in place and may be replaced when necessary for the permittee to properly administer the grazing program. Thus, if livestock grazing activities and facilities were established in an area at the time Congress determined that the area was suitable for wilderness and placed the specific area in the wilderness system, they should be allowed to continue. With respect to areas designated as wilderness prior to the date of this Act, these guidelines shall not be considered as a direction to re-establish uses where such uses have been discontinued.

It is also the understanding of the conferees that the authorizing Committees intend to closely monitor the implementation of the guidelines through subsequent oversight hearings to insure that the spirit, as well as the letter, of the guidelines is adhered to by the Forest Service. Of course, the inclusion of these guidelines in this joint Statement of Managers does not preclude the Congress from dealing with the issue of grazing in wilderness areas statutorily in the future.

APPENDIX III

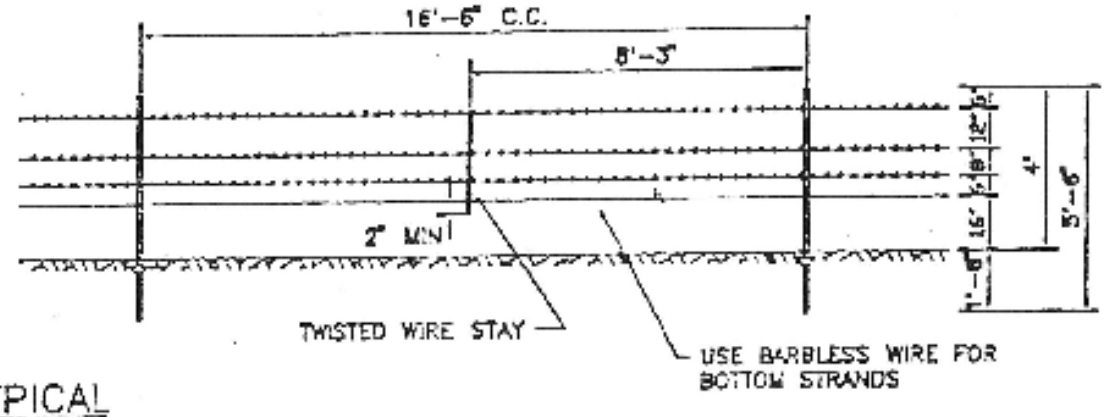
(EA)

FENCE CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS



PANEL AT MINOR DEPRESSION

ADD ADDITIONAL STRANDS OF BARBED WIRE AND/OR A ROCK DEADMAN (MIN. WEIGHT 50LB.) WHEN SPACE BETWEEN BOTTOM WIRE AND GROUND EXCEEDS 20 IN.



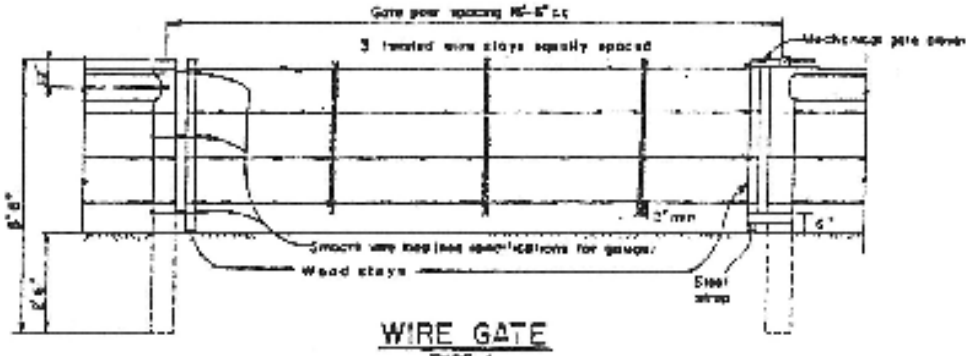
TYPICAL LINE PANEL

GENERAL NOTES:

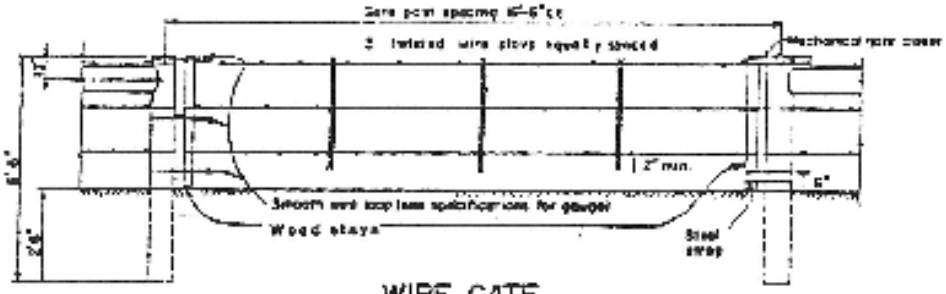
1. A STEEL LINE POST DRIVEN A MINIMUM OF FOUR FEET INTO THE GROUND MAY BE USED IN LIEU OF A ROCK DEADMAN AT MINOR DEPRESSIONS.

ALWAYS THINK SAFETY

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Branch of Engineering NSC	
BARBED WIRE FENCE NV (4-WIRE x 16½')	
DESIGNED By OTHERS REVIEWED APPROVED	
DRAWN J.L.C.	SCALE 1" = 4'
DATE 8/90	SHEET 12 OF 15
DRAWING NO NV-02834-53	



WIRE GATE
TYPE A



WIRE GATE
TYPE B

NOTES:

1. See specifications for type of gate to be used.

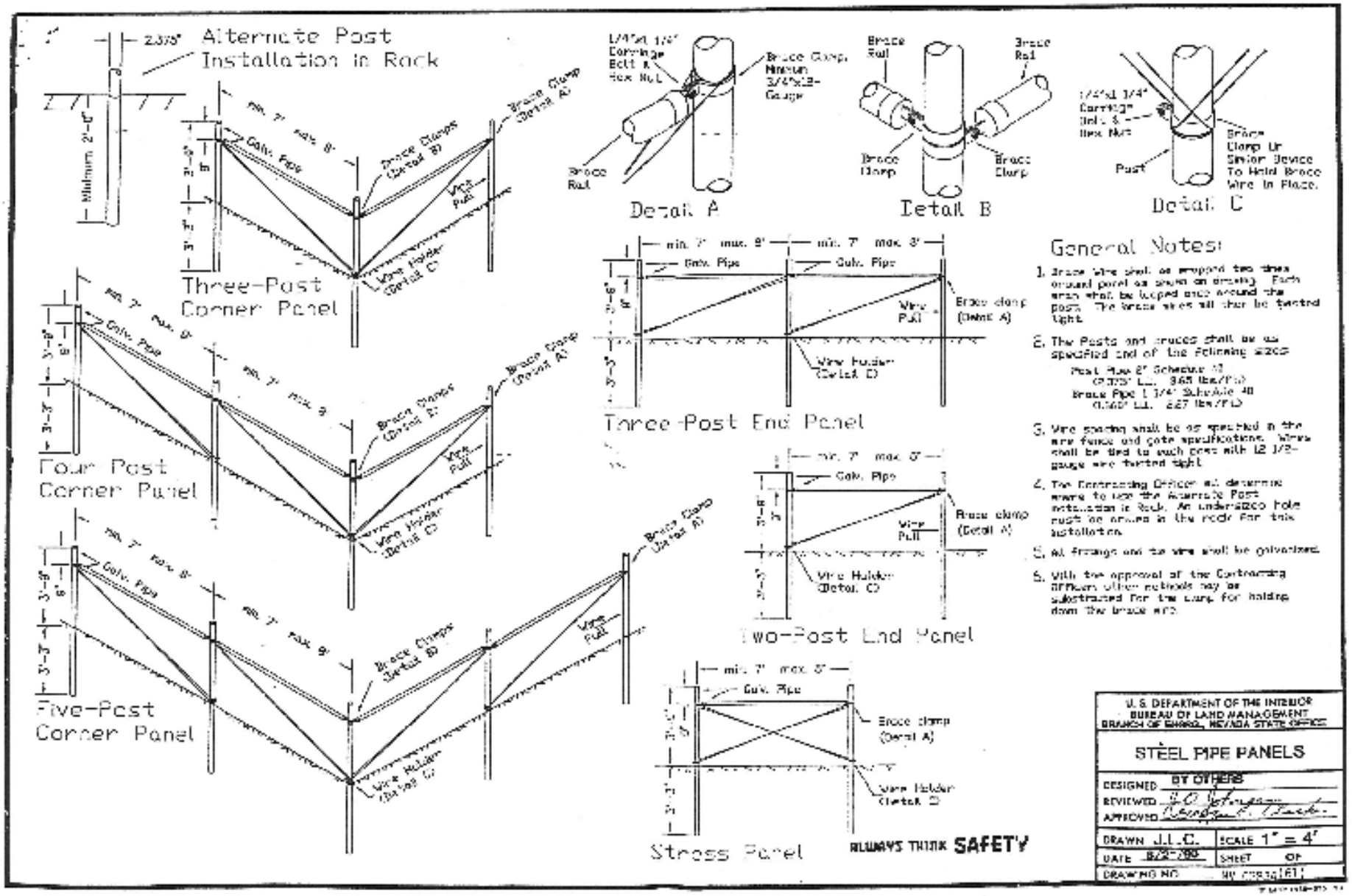
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
BRANCH OF ENGINEERING NEVADA STATE OFFICE

TYPICAL
WIRE GATES

DESIGNED OTHERS
REVIEWED James D. Johnson
APPROVED Edward F. Tank

DRAWN OTHER | SCALE NONE
DATE JAN 1988 | SHEET OF
DRAWING NO. NV-02553-8

REMEMBER THINK SAFETY


Alternate Post Installation in Rock
Minimum 2'-0"
Three-Post Corner Panel
Four Post Corner Panel
Five-Post Corner Panel
Three-Post End Panel
Two-Post End Panel
Stress Panel
Detail A
Detail B
Detail C
Brace Clamp (Detail A)
Brace Clamps (Detail B)
Wire Holder (Detail C)
Wire Pull
Galv. Pipe
min. 7' max. 8'
min. 7' max. 9'
Brace Rod
Brace Clamp
Post
Brace Clamp Or Similar Device To Hold Brace Wire In Place.
General Notes:
1. Brace wire shall be wrapped two times around panel as shown on drawing. Each wrap shall be looped once around the post. The brace wires all shall be twisted tight.
2. The Posts and braces shall be as specified and of the following sizes:
Post Pipe 8" Schedule 40 (0.375" t.) 36.5 lbs/ft.
Brace Pipe 1 1/4" Schedule 40 (0.140" t.) 2.27 lbs/ft.
3. Wire spacing shall be as specified in the wire fence and gate specifications. Wires shall be tied to each post with 12 1/2-gauge wire twisted tight.
4. The Contracting Officer will determine where to use the Alternate Post Installation in Rock. An undersized hole must be drilled in the rock for this installation.
5. All fittings and the wire shall be galvanized.
6. With the approval of the Contracting Officer other methods may be substituted for the clamp for holding down the brace wire.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
BRANCH OF ENGRG., NEVADA STATE OFFICE
STEEL PIPE PANELS
DESIGNED BY OTHERS
REVIEWED
APPROVED
DRAWN J.L.C.
SCALE 1" = 4'
DATE 8/2/90
SHEET OF
DRAWING NO. NV-0000161
ALWAYS THINK SAFETY

APPENDIX IV
(EA)

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

The following are required Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) during the construction of fence exclosures around the Crescent, Blowfly and Cutler reservoirs:

1. Removal of vegetation will be held to the minimum necessary for construction, access, and to provide for safety.

2. Construction activities will be limited to times when soils are not wet or saturated, to lessen soil compaction by equipment.

3. Vehicle travel shall only be permitted on existing, developed dirt roads.

4. If barbed wire is used, white flagging will be tied at each wire stay for visibility to animals. These will remain for a time sufficient to allow animals to see the newly constructed fence.

5. Maintenance of the fence exclosures will be the responsibility of the operator through cooperative agreements with the BLM.

6 Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(G) the holder of this authorization must notify the authorized officer by telephone, with written confirmation immediately upon discovery of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony (as defined at 43 CFR 10.2). Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4 (c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

7. All equipment and assorted materials associated with the construction of the projects must be removed within 30 days after completion of the projects. All refuse must be removed from public lands immediately following project completion.

8. Fence specifications for wildlife concerns will be strictly adhered to in the construction of these exclosures. These specifications will be provided to the builder prior to construction.

APPENDIX V

(EA)

WEED RISK ASSESSMENT

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR NOXIOUS & INVASIVE WEEDS

Term Grazing Permit Renewal for
D/4 Enterprises (#2705021)

Bald Mountain Allotment (#21003)

On July 7, 2011, a Noxious & Invasive Weed Risk Assessment was completed on the Bald Mountain Allotment in Lincoln County, Nevada in preparation for the permit renewal process scheduled during 2011.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Caliente Field Office proposes to fully process and issue new term grazing permits for Authorization D/4 Enterprises on the Bald Mountain Allotment.

The Proposed Action is to maintain the Active Use of 5,811 AUMs and yearlong grazing in accordance with the current term permit. However, the authorization of 5,811 AUMs, during any given year, would be based on annual forage availability.

The Proposed Action will also include the construction of fence exclosures (with gates) around Crescent, Blowfly and Cutler Reservoirs to allow livestock access to these watering locations only when desired by the permittee. This will provide better control of livestock by making herding more effective.

As part of the proposed action, the permittee would also be required to rotate grazing in the south portion of the allotment annually, so that spring grazing – during the critical growing period for plants – does not occur in the same portions on the allotment every year; particularly in those portions in the south half of the allotment where Standard 3 is not being achieved (represented by KAs #2 and #4). The permittee would accomplish this using existing watering locations and herding as management tools. Table 1, below, displays the current term grazing permit on the allotment.

Table 1 Current Term Grazing Permit for D/4 Enterprises on the Bald Mountain Allotment.

ALLOTMENT		LIVESTOCK		GRAZING PERIOD		** % Public Land	AUMs		
Name	Number	* Number	Kind	Begin	End		Active Use	Hist. Susp. Use	Total Use
Bald Mountain	21003	480	C	3/01	2/28	100	5,811	487	6,298
		5	H	3/01	2/28	100			

* These numbers are approximate
** This is for billing purposes only.

The following Best Management Practices would be added to the Term Grazing Permit:

1. Allowable Use Levels on current year's growth of upland vegetation (grasses, forbs and shrubs) within the Bald Mountain Allotment - during the authorized grazing use period - would not exceed 45%.

2. Livestock will be moved to another authorized pasture or removed from the allotment before utilization objectives are met or no later than 5 days after meeting the utilization objectives. Any deviation in livestock movement will require authorization from the authorized officer.

No field weed surveys were completed for this project. Instead the Ely District weed inventory data was consulted. This area was last surveyed in 2007. Currently, the following noxious weeds are documented within the allotment.

Acroptilon repens	Russian Knapweed
Tamarix spp.	Salt cedar

The Salt cedar is found adjacent to Blowfly Reservoir and consists of a few trees. The Russian Knapweed is located adjacent to Highway 375.

While not officially documented, the following non-native invasive weeds probably occur in or around the allotment: cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) and Russian thistle (*Salsola kali*).

Factor 1 assesses the likelihood of noxious/invasive weed species spreading to the project area.

None (0)	Noxious/invasive weed species are not located within or adjacent to the project area. Project activity is not likely to result in the establishment of noxious/invasive weed species in the project area.
Low (1-3)	Noxious/invasive weed species are present in the areas adjacent to but not within the project area. Project activities can be implemented and prevent the spread of noxious/invasive weeds into the project area.
Moderate (4-7)	Noxious/invasive weed species located immediately adjacent to or within the project area. Project activities are likely to result in some areas becoming infested with noxious/invasive weed species even when preventative management actions are followed. Control measures are essential to prevent the spread of noxious/invasive weeds within the project area.
High (8-10)	Heavy infestations of noxious/invasive weeds are located within or immediately adjacent to the project area. Project activities, even with preventative management actions, are likely to result in the establishment and spread of noxious/invasive weeds on disturbed sites throughout much of the project area.

For this project, the factor rates as Moderate (4) at the present time. Grazing can increase the populations of the invasive weeds already within the permitted areas and could aid in the

introduction of weeds from surrounding areas. However the design features of the proposed action will help to prevent weeds from establishing or spreading.

Factor 2 assesses the consequences of noxious/invasive weed establishment in the project area.

Low to Nonexistent (1-3)	None. No cumulative effects expected.
Moderate (4-7)	Possible adverse effects on site and possible expansion of infestation within the project area. Cumulative effects on native plant communities are likely but limited.
High (8-10)	Obvious adverse effects within the project area and probable expansion of noxious/invasive weed infestations to areas outside the project area. Adverse cumulative effects on native plant communities are probable.

This project rates as Moderate (5) at the present time. If noxious weed infestations establish within the permitted area this could have an adverse impact those native plant communities however, the proposed action includes measures to increase native plants and to help prevent weeds from establishing. An increase of red brome could alter the fire regime in the area.

The Risk Rating is obtained by multiplying Factor 1 by Factor 2.

None (0)	Proceed as planned.
Low (1-10)	Proceed as planned. Initiate control treatment on noxious/invasive weed populations that get established in the area.
Moderate (11-49)	Develop preventative management measures for the proposed project to reduce the risk of introduction of spread of noxious/invasive weeds into the area. Preventative management measures should include modifying the project to include seeding the area to occupy disturbed sites with desirable species. Monitor the area for at least 3 consecutive years and provide for control of newly established populations of noxious/invasive weeds and follow-up treatment for previously treated infestations.
High (50-100)	Project must be modified to reduce risk level through preventative management measures, including seeding with desirable species to occupy disturbed site and controlling existing infestations of noxious/invasive weeds prior to project activity. Project must provide at least 5 consecutive years of monitoring. Projects must also provide for control of newly established populations of noxious/invasive weeds and follow-up treatment for previously treated infestations.

For this project, the Risk Rating is Moderate (20). This indicates that the project can proceed as planned as long as the following measures are followed:

- To eliminate the introduction of noxious weed seeds, roots, or rhizomes all interim and final seed mixes, hay, straw, hay/straw, or other organic products used for feed or bedding will be certified free of plant species listed on the Nevada noxious weed list or specifically identified by the BLM Ely District Office.

- Prior to entering public lands, the BLM will provide information regarding noxious weed management and identification to the permit holders affiliated with the project. The importance of preventing the spread of weeds to uninfested areas and importance of controlling existing populations of weeds will be explained.

- The range specialist for the allotment will include weed detection into project compliance inspection activities. If the spread of noxious weeds is noted, appropriated weed control procedures will be determined in consultation with BLM personnel and will be in compliance with the appropriate BLM handbook sections and applicable laws and regulations.

- Grazing will be conducted in compliance with the Ely District BLM noxious weed schedules. The scheduled procedures can significantly and effectively reduce noxious weed spread or introduction into the project area.

- When necessary, control or restrict the timing of livestock movement to minimize the transport of livestock-borne noxious weed seeds, roots, or rhizomes between weed-infested and weed-free areas.

- Any newly established populations of noxious/invasive weeds discovered will be communicated to the Ely District Noxious and Invasive Weeds Program for treatment.

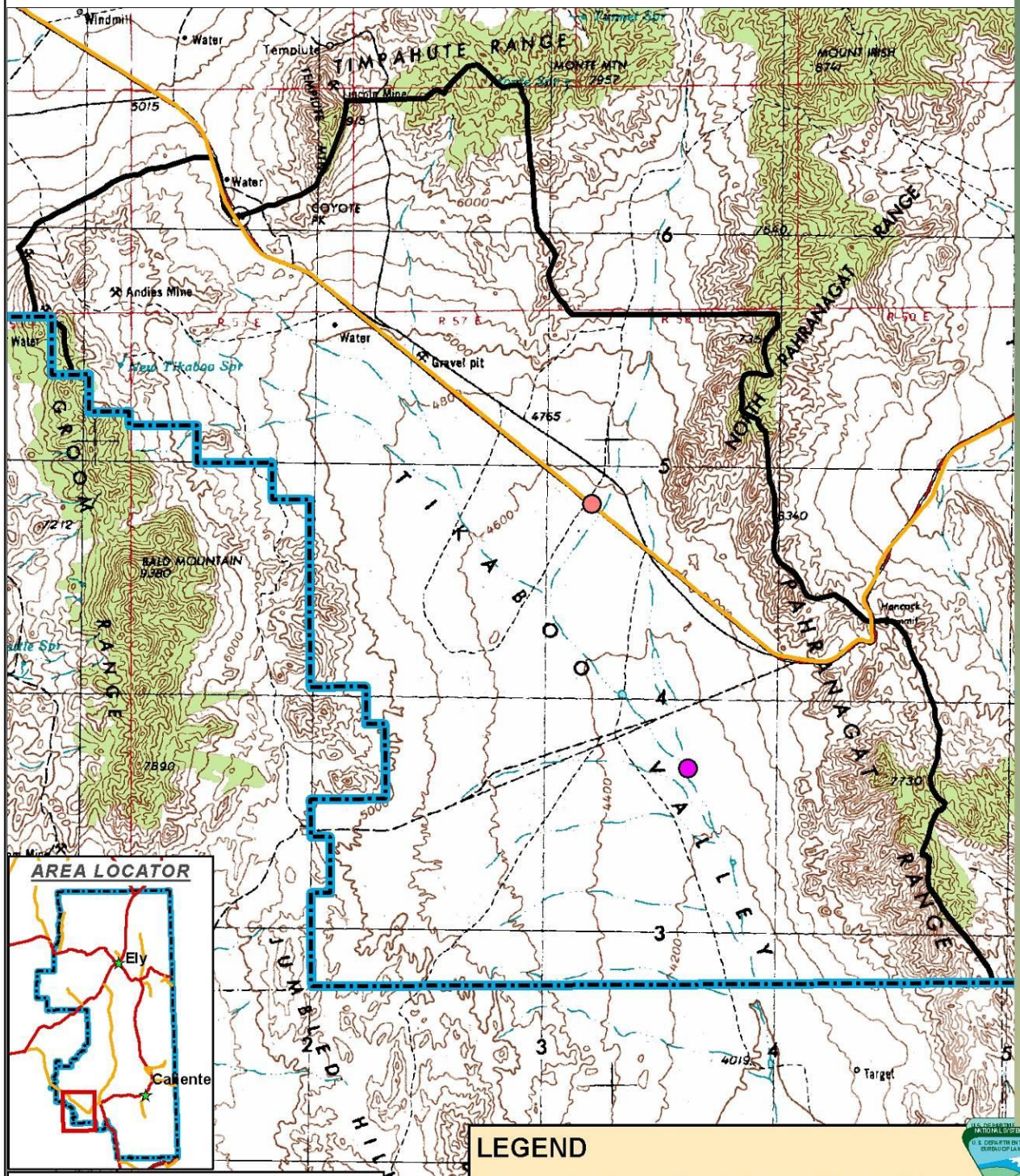
Reviewed by: /s/ Cameron Boyce 7/6/2011

Cameron Boyce
Natural Resource Specialist

Date

MAP #1

Location of Known Noxious Weeds within the Bald Mountain Allotment.



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Map Produced by: Caliente Field Office Range Staff on 3/15/2011

N

0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

LEGEND

Known Noxious Weeds in Bald Mtn. Allotment

Common Name

- Russian Knapweed
- Salt Cedar
- Bald Mountain Allotment
- Ely District

BLM

Ely District Office

APPENDIX VI
(EA)

STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Livestock numbers identified in the Term Grazing Permit are a function of seasons of use and permitted use. Deviations from those livestock numbers and seasons of use may be authorized on an annual basis where such deviations are consistent with multiple-use objectives. Such deviations will require an application and written authorization from the authorized officer prior to grazing use.

2. The authorized officer is requiring that an actual use report (Form 4130-5) be submitted within 15 days after completing your annual grazing use.

3. Grazing use will be in accordance with the Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration. The Standards and Guidelines have been developed by the respective Resource Advisory Council and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on February 12, 1997. Grazing use will also be in accordance with 43 CFR Subpart 4180 - Fundamentals of Rangeland Health and Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration.

4. If future monitoring data indicates that Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration are not being met, the permit will be reissued subject to revised terms and conditions.

5. The permittee must notify the authorized officer by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon discovery of any hazardous or solid wastes as defined in 40 CFR Part 261.

6. The permittee is responsible for all maintenance of assigned range improvements including wildlife escape ramps for both permanent and temporary water troughs.

7. When necessary, control or restrict the timing of livestock movement to minimize the transport of livestock-borne noxious weed seeds, roots, or rhizomes between weed-infested and weed-free areas.

8. The placement of mineral or salt supplements will be a minimum distance of ½ mile from known water sources, riparian areas, winterfat dominated sites, sensitive sites, populations of special status plant species, and cultural resource sites. Mineral and salt supplements will also be one mile from active sage-grouse leks. Placing supplemental feed (i.e. hay, grain, pellets, etc.) on public lands without authorization is prohibited.

APPENDIX VII

(EA)

WILDLIFE
(Plants and Animals)

Wildlife & Plants for Bald Mountain Term Permit Renewal

The project area is the Bald Mountain grazing allotment and reviews existing data as of 3/4/2011.

NOTE: Bolded species names are birds considered BLM Sensitive Species in Nevada.

- -

Wildlife and plant species from Ely RMP (2008), NV Natural Heritage Data, and NDOW Diversity Data:

Desert Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*) occupied and unoccupied habitat
Mule Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) general habitat on a portion
Pronghorn Antelope (*Antelocapra americana*) general habitat
Desert Valley Kangaroo Mouse (*Microdipodops megacephalus albiventer*)
Sanicle Biscuitroot (*Cymopterus ripleyi* var. *saniculoides*)
Gilman Milkvetch (*Astragalus gilmanii*)

The project would occur within NDOW Hunt Units 143 and 245. The project area is the Bald Mountain grazing allotment which is situated within portions of the Sand Spring Valley and Tikaboo Valley Watersheds. A portion of the Mt. Irish wilderness occurs within steep, rugged terrain in the extreme northeast portion of the allotment. There are nine guzzlers within the allotment; three are for Desert Bighorn Sheep (Badger, Long Cyn, and North wall), and the other six are for small game (North Pahranagat 1-6).

The following data reflect survey blocks and/or incidental sightings of bird species in or near the project area from the Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Nevada (Floyd et al. 2007) and NDOW Diversity Data. These data represent birds that were confirmed, probably, or possibly breeding within or near the project area. These data are not comprehensive, and additional species not listed here may be present. One survey block occurs partially within the project area and partially adjacent to the project area. Survey blocks with similar vegetation as this area contained the following bird species:

Western Wood-Pewee (*Contopus sordidulus*)
Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*)
Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*)
Juniper Titmouse (*Baeolophus ridgwayi*)
Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*)
Brewer's Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*)
Common Raven (*Corvus corax*)
House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*)
Pinyon Jay (*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*)
Bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*)

Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*)
Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*)
Gray Vireo (*Vireo vicinior*)
Mountain Chickadee (*Poecile gambeli*)
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*)
Wilson's warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*)
Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos)*
Loggerheaded Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus)*
Canyon Wren (*Catherpes mexicanus*)
Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*)
MacGillivray's Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*)
Scotts' Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*)

Works Cited

Floyd T, Elphick CS, Chisholm G, Mack K, Elston RG, Ammon EM, and Boone JD. 2007. Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Nevada. Reno: University of Nevada Press.

Nevada Department of Wildlife. 2004. NDOW Diversity Database.

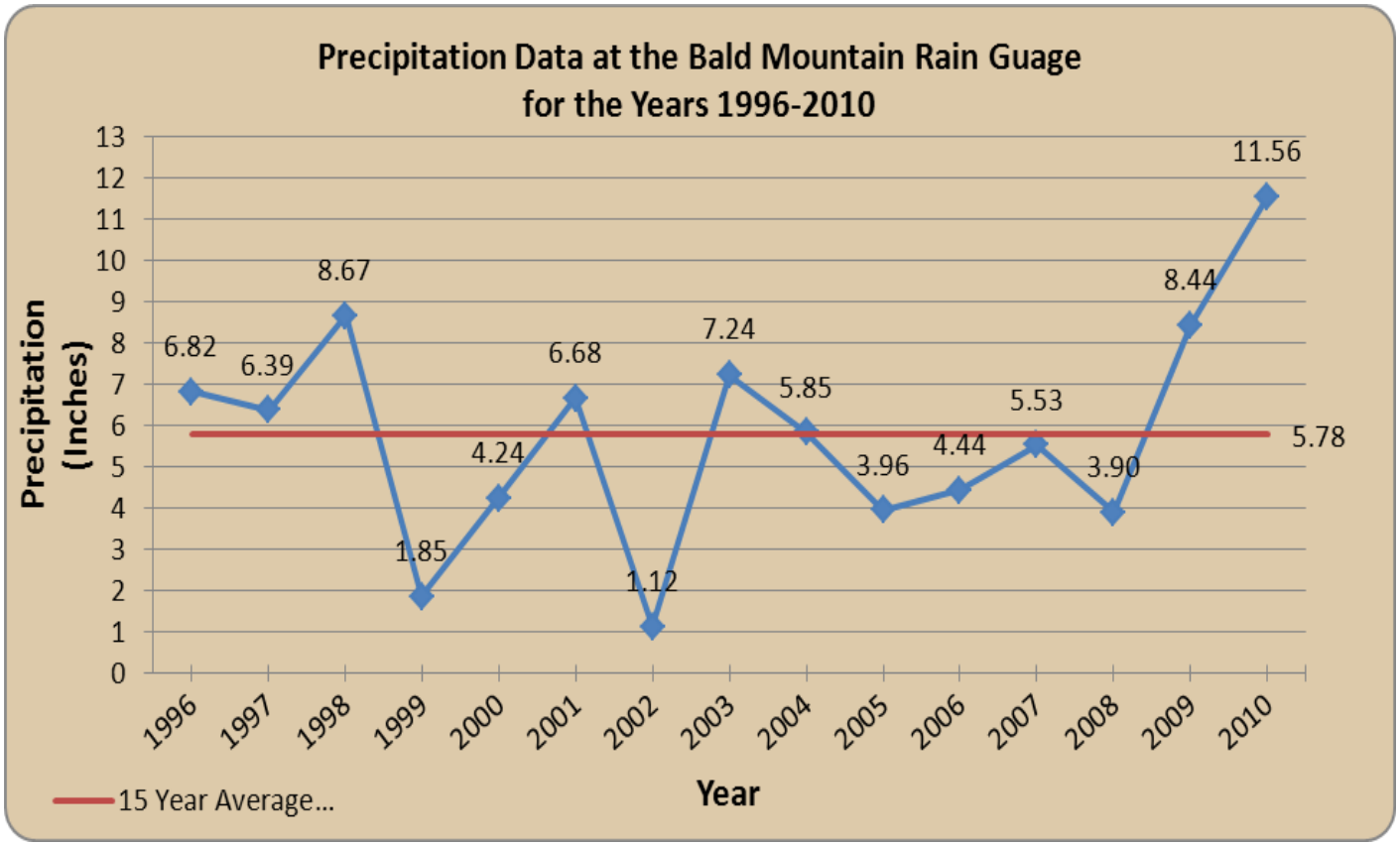
State of Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Nevada Natural Heritage Program. 2006. http://heritage.nv.gov.

USDOI. 2008. Ely District Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan. U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. BLM/NV/EL/PL-GI08/25+1793.

APPENDIX VIII

(EA)

PRECIPITATION

Table 1. Precipitation Values collected at the BLM Bald Mountain Rain Gage for the Years 1996-2010.

Year	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Average
Annual Precipitation (inches)	6.82	6.39	8.67	1.85	4.24	6.68	1.12	7.24	5.85	3.96	4.44	5.53	3.90	8.44	11.56	5.78