

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

---

**Categorical Exclusion**

**White Rock Picnic Area Maintenance in Cabin Canyon**

**January 2013**

**PREPARING OFFICE**

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Las Vegas Field Office  
4701 North Torrey Pines Drive  
Las Vegas, NV 89130





# White Rock Picnic Area Maintenance in Cabin Canyon

## A. Background

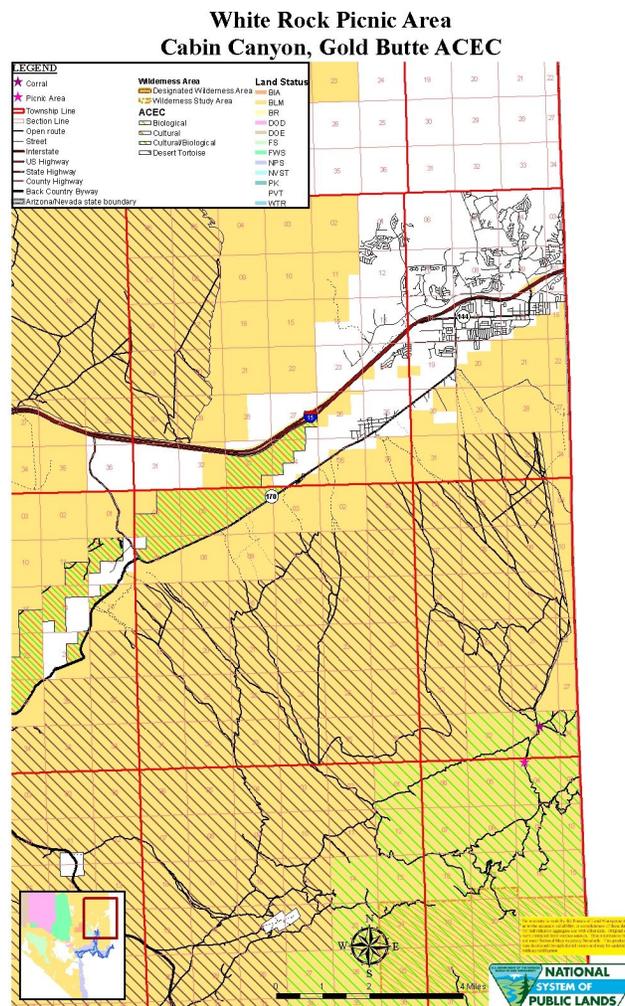
**NEPA Project Number:** DOI-BLM-NV-S010-2012-0012-CX

**BLM Office:** NV - Las Vegas Field Office (LLNVS01000)

**Lease/Serial/Case File No.:** NV052-2012-0012

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** White Rock Picnic Area Maintenance in Cabin Canyon

**Location of Proposed Action:** Gold Butte Area of Critical Environmental Concern (Part C), Cabin Canyon, Bunkerville Township. Mt. Diablo Meridian, T. 14 S., R. 71 E., Section 33 and T. 15 S., R. 71 E., Section 4 Hen Springs 7.5–mintue USGS topographic map



**Figure 1. Map of the project locations.**

**Description of Proposed Action:** Community clean-up of the White Rock picnic area in Cabin Canyon. The White Rock picnic area was created by the community years ago on public lands

within the Gold Butte Area of Critical Environmental Concern (Part C). Regular use of the area for picnicking and camping occurs and has resulted in trash in the creek and uplands areas, hill climbs from illegal vehicle use off designated roads, graffiti, and destruction of an old corral for firewood. The BLM proposes to conduct community clean-ups of the area to reduce resource damage and fire hazards. Actions are: remove trash, clean out the fire pans and remove casual use fire rings, clean graffiti and paintball paint off the boulders, installing signs, trim trees back from the picnic tables and fire rings, reconstruct the corral, and install a 50-foot long t-post and wire gap fence at the end of the designated road where unauthorized hill climbing is occurring.

Clean-ups will be implemented under BLM supervision with small groups of up to 20 volunteers. Carpooling will be encouraged and vehicles will remain in existing developed areas within the two sites. It is estimated that four days, approximately 1 day a month, will be required to tidy up the area and that public use of the area will require repeated treatments to keep the area clean.

Restoration of the hill climbs will be implemented under previously approved EA: *Route Designations Located in Selected ACECs in Northeast Portion of the Las Vegas District*, August 2008. This will be coordinated with the Restoration Team.

## **B. Land Use Plan Conformance**

**Land Use Plan Name:** Nevada - Las Vegas Resource Management Plan

**Date Approved/Amended:** October 1998

**The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions) :**

- VG2a. Rehabilitate, reclaim, or revegetate areas subjected to surface-disturbing activities where feasible. When rehabilitating disturbed areas, manage for optimum species diversity by seeding native species, except where non-native species are appropriate.
- AC-1a/2a. (Table 2–5. Gold Butte ACEC Part C). Require reclamation of temporary roads.
- RC-1. Ensure that a wide range of recreation opportunities are available for recreation users in concert with protecting the natural resources on public lands that attract users.

## **C. Compliance with NEPA:**

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 2, Appendix 1, or 516 DM 11.9,

- DOI CX 1.7. Routine and continuing government business, including such things as supervision, administration, operations, maintenance, renovations, and replacement activities having limited context and intensity (e.g., limited size and magnitude or short-term effects).
- BLM CX G2. Installation of routine signs, markers, culverts, ditches, waterbars, gates or cattleguards on/or adjacent to roads and trails identified in any land use or transportation plan, or eligible for incorporation in such a plan.

- BLM CX J10. Removal of structures and materials of no historical value, such as abandoned automobiles, fences, and buildings, including those built in trespass and reclamation of the site when little or no surface disturbance is involved.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply.

I considered:

1. The proposed action will help alleviate the potential for illegal campfires during fire restrictions to spread into the wildlands.
2. This project may enhance the visitor experience in this area by reducing trash and graffiti.
3. The proposed clean-up project will have long term positive impacts on the local water resources and quality and on the riparian zone.
4. Participants in the clean up will be instructed in avoiding historic trash and any discovered will be reported to the BLM Archaeologist. All activities will be confined to existing disturbed areas and no new surface disturbance is proposed. The undertaking is determined exempt from Section 106 review as set forth in Appendix C.10 of the 2009 State Protocol Agreement with with the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO): "Issuing permits and rights-of-way where no additional surface disturbance is authorized."
5. The proposed action will have an overall benefit to the biological values in the ACEC, desert tortoise critical habitat, and wildlife species and their habitats. The following measures will be implemented to reduce short term impacts to wildlife:
  - a. Cleanup activities will be only one day a month, utilizing hand tools and carried out by a group limited to approximately 20 people. This will ensure potential impacts to desert bighorns would be temporary.
  - b. Migratory birds, may be present on the project site. The BLM and volunteers will be required to adhere to the following mitigation measures for the trimming of trees:
    - i. To prevent undue harm, habitat-altering projects or portions of projects should be scheduled outside bird breeding season. In upland desert habitats and ephemeral washes containing upland species, the season generally occurs between March 15th - July 30th.
    - ii. If a project that may alter any breeding habitat has to occur during the breeding season, then a qualified biologist must survey the area for nests prior to commencement of construction activities. This shall include burrowing and ground nesting species in addition to those nesting in vegetation. If any active nests (containing eggs or young) are found, an appropriately-sized buffer area must be avoided until the young birds fledge.
  - c. Although there is no new surface disturbance associated with this project, direct impacts associated with mortality of wildlife from vehicular traffic may result during cleanup events. A speed limit of 10 miles per hour will be posted in the clean-up area

during project activities and parking areas will be delineated in existing disturbed areas to reduce vehicular wildlife mortalities.

- d. No impacts to desert tortoises or their habitat are expected and no remuneration fees are required. Additionally, compliance with the special stipulations below will help to ensure that no affect to desert tortoises occurs.
  - i. A speed limit of 25 miles per hour shall be required for all vehicles travelling on the existing access roads to White Rock Picnic Area.
  - ii. A speed limit of 10 miles per hour will be posted in the clean-up area during project activities and parking areas will be delineated in existing disturbed areas.
  - iii. Workers will be instructed to check underneath all vehicles before moving them as tortoises often take cover underneath parked vehicles.
  - iv. Should a desert tortoise enter the area of activity, all activity shall cease until such time as the animal has left the area of its own accord.
6. Volunteers will be advised of weed issues on site (tamarisk, common mullein), how weeds can be spread, and that springs (with increased water availability), are especially susceptible to invasion. Volunteers will be directed to arrive to clean-up activities free of soil and plant material (especially ensure clean shoes and laces) and to remove weeds from clothing before leaving the site to avoid spreading weeds already present on the site to clean areas.
7. The proposed action is located in VRM Class II in which the objective is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change from the proposed action would be low and would improve/maintain the visual character of the area. New signs and 50' long T-post fence may be seen but should not attract attention. Signs and the fence will be installed in ways to repeat the elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.
8. The proposed action is located in an area that was nominated for wilderness characteristics as part of the Las Vegas RMP Revision and was found to lack wilderness characteristics. The proposed action is in conformance with the existing Land Use Plan as it relates to management of lands with wilderness characteristics.

#### D. Approval and Contact Information

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gayle Marris-Smith  
Assistant Field Manager, Renewable Resources

1/4/2013  
Date

#### Contact Person

Carolyn J. Ronning, Natural Resource Specialist  
Las Vegas Field Office  
4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr.  
Las Vegas, NV 89130  
702-515-5143  
cronning@blm.gov