

**Lead Agency:**

United States  
Department of Commerce  
  
National  
Telecommunications &  
Information Administration



**Grant Award:**

American Recovery and  
Reinvestment Act

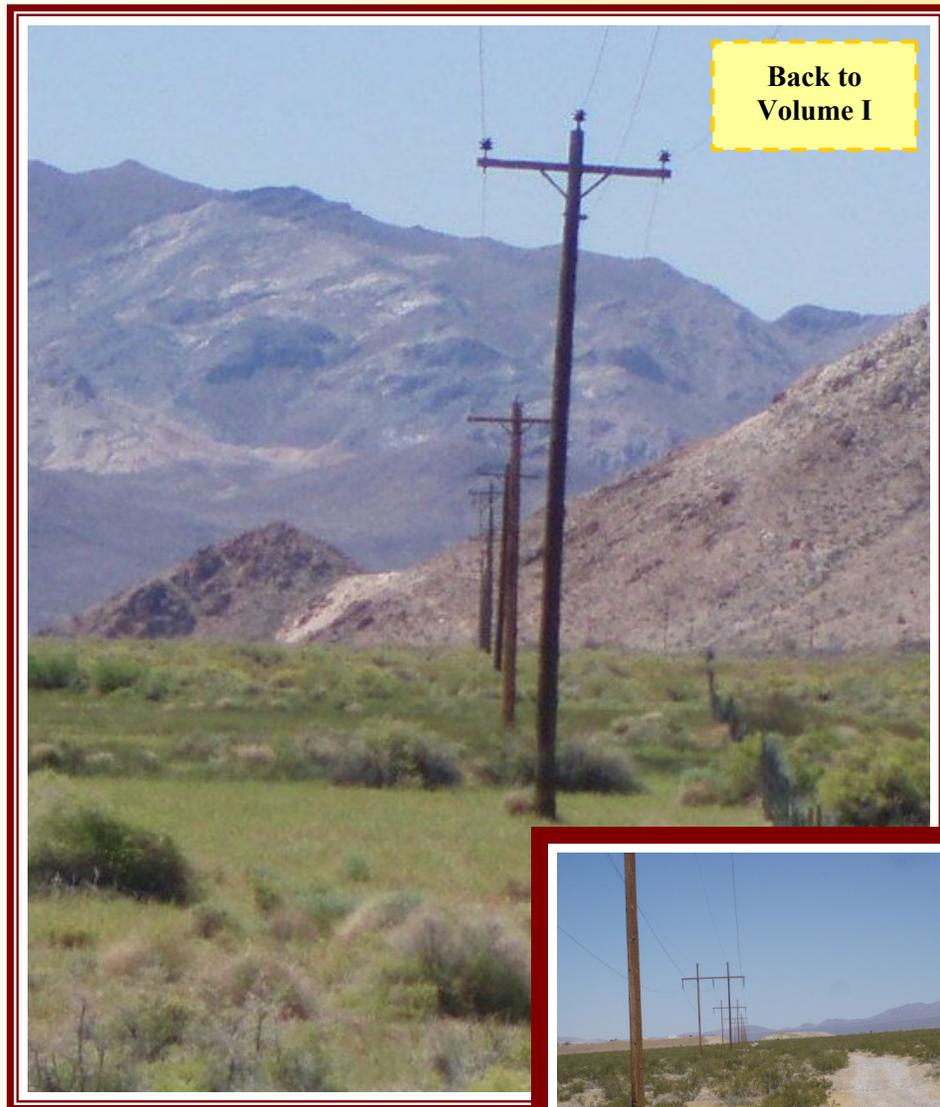


FINAL  
**Environmental Assessment**

Nevada Hospital Association  
Nevada Broadband Telemedicine Initiative

January 20, 2012

**Volume II**



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-----Original Message-----

From: Hansen, Kristine S SPK [<mailto:Kristine.S.Hansen@usace.army.mil>]

Sent: Wednesday, December 28, 2011 11:14 AM

To: JoAnne Robben

Subject: RE: Fiber Optic line project near Goldfield (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

JoAnne-

For an approved jurisdictional determination, a delineation of waters of the U.S. should be prepared according to our "Minimum Delineation Guidance" (attached, the yellow highlights show which areas should be completed for waters versus wetlands). Once the delineation is received, it is reviewed for completeness then a jurisdictional determination is prepared. For an isolated determination we must coordinate with USEPA and USACE HQ in Washington DC. This total review process (from time of receipt of the delineation) takes 60+ days.

Other options, for any formal determinations either a delineation or complete permit package must be submitted.

You may want to look at NWP 12, "Utility Line Activities" to determine what notification may be required to the Corps to proceed. Your client proceeds at their own risk and must comply with all of the National and Regional General Conditions of NWP 12, if they do not notify the Corps. That said if notification is not required, they are authorized at a National level to proceed.

Kristine Hansen

Senior Project Manager

US Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District Reno Regulatory Field Office 300 Booth Street, Room 3060 Reno, Nevada 89509-1361

(775) 784-5307 fax: (775) 784-5306

[Kristine.S.Hansen@usace.army.mil](mailto:Kristine.S.Hansen@usace.army.mil)

-----Original Message-----

From: JoAnne Robben [<mailto:joanne@rci-nv.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, December 28, 2011 9:12 AM

To: Hansen, Kristine S SPK

Subject: Fiber Optic line project near Goldfield

Hi Kristine,

Hope this email finds you well.

I am following up on our conversation a few weeks back regarding a proposed fiber optic line project located just south of Goldfield, Nevada (Esmeralda County). The fiber optic line would be buried for approximately 15 miles between Goldfield and Lida Junction within the NDOT right-of-way along the west side of Hwy 95. The fiber optic trench would be constructed across several dry desert washes that drain to the east under Hwy 95 and into Mudd Lake, an intrastate terminal basin. There is no nexus between Mudd Lake and any Traditional Navigable Water. Mudd Lake is intrastate basin, and is not currently used, previously used, or susceptible for use in interstate commerce. Mudd lake is a seasonally wet lake that is highly saline, and as such, it does not support fisheries or suitable vegetation for migratory wildlife. Based on current USACE regulations, it is my professional opinion that the desert dry washes within the project area would be considered non-jurisdictional under the Clean Water Act.

Could you please explain the procedure for obtaining a formal jurisdictional determination from USACE of "non-jurisdiction" and associated time line? Are there any other options that should be considered for this type of project?

I appreciate your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

JoAnne Robben  
Sr. Resource Specialist  
Resource Concepts, Inc.





5250 Neil Road • Suite 302 • Reno, NV 89502  
(775) 827-0184 • Fax (775) 827-0190

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June 14, 2011

Mr. Chris McAlear  
Carson City BLM District Manager  
5665 Morgan Mill Road  
Carson City, NV 89701

Subject: Nevada Hospital Association - Nevada Broadband Telemedicine Initiative Project  
Authorized Agent

Mr. McAlear,

This letter serves to designate Mr. Tom Lane as the authorized agent for the Nevada Hospital Association's Nevada Broadband Telemedicine Initiative Project. In this capacity, Tom Lane will serve as the Point of Contact for all permitting and construction related issues for the Project. I will retain signature authority for financial matters.

Tom Lane's contact information is:

Mr. Tom Lane  
Optica Network Technologies  
Project Manager  
3476 Executive Point Way  
Suite 16  
Carson City, Nevada 89706  
Tel: 775-883-7208  
Fax: 775-883-7220  
[tom.lane@ontllc.com](mailto:tom.lane@ontllc.com)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Welch", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

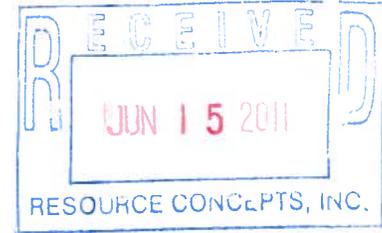
Bill Welch  
President/CEO  
Nevada Hospital Association



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Nevada State Office  
P.O. Box 12000 (1340 Financial Blvd.)  
Reno, Nevada 89520-0006  
<http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en.html>



In Reply Refer to:  
2800 (NV933)

**JUN 13 2011**

Nevada Hospital Association  
Attn: Bill Welch, President/CEO  
5250 Neil Road, Suite 302  
Reno, NV 89502

This letter is to serve as notification that your fiber optic right-of-way (ROW) application dated June 9, 2011, has been assigned to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Carson City District Office. Carson City will serve as your primary point of contact and the Lead BLM District Office in the processing and monitoring of your multi-district fiber optic ROW application.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mary Figarelle at (775) 861-6429.

Sincerely,

Raul Morales  
Deputy State Director  
Natural Resources, Lands & Planning

cc: BLM Carson City DO

✓ Resource Concepts, Inc.  
Attn: Marvin Tebeau and Lynn Zonge  
340 N. Minnesota Street  
Carson City, NV 89703

## **Memorandum of Understanding**

**Between**

**The National Telecommunications and Information Administration**

**And**

**The Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, California and Nevada Offices**

### **I. Introduction**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a lead agency-cooperating agency relationship between the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), California and Nevada Offices, respectively, for the purposes of reviewing and commenting on National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Assessments (EAs) prepared for NTIA's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) projects. The agreement also establishes the roles and responsibilities of NTIA and BLM with respect to compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), inclusive of associated Tribal consultations for NTIA's BTOP projects. The NTIA acknowledges that the BLM has jurisdictional authority over those portions of BTOP projects that have activities taking place on BLM lands.

The cooperating agency relationship established through this MOU shall be governed by all applicable statutes, regulations, and policies, including those listed in section III.

### **II. Purpose**

The purposes of this MOU are:

- A. To designate the BLM as a Cooperating Agency in the BTOP EA process pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 1501.6.
- B. To provide a framework for cooperation and coordination between the NTIA and the BLM that will ensure a successful completion of the BTOP EAs and NHPA consultations, inclusive of Tribal consultations, in a timely, efficient, and thorough manner.
- C. To recognize the NTIA as the lead Federal Agency having responsibility for the preparation of all BTOP EAs and primary responsibility for completion of NHPA, inclusive of Tribal consultations.
- D. To describe the respective responsibilities, jurisdictional authorities, and expertise of the Parties in the planning process.

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- D. To describe the respective responsibilities, jurisdictional authorities, and expertise of the Parties in the planning process.

### III. Authorities for the MOU

- A. The authorities of the NTIA and BLM to enter into and engage in the activities described in this MOU include, but are not limited to:
  - 1. The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.).
  - 2. The National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. § 470 et seq.).
  - 3. The Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. § 1531 et seq.).
  - 4. The Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (47 U.S.C. § 1305).
  - 5. Section 1609 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) (Pub. L. No. 111-5), which requires agencies complete applicable NEPA environmental reviews “on an expeditious basis and that the shortest existing applicable process under the [NEPA] shall be utilized”.
  - 6. Executive Order 13175, November 6, 2000, Consultation and Coordination With Indian Tribal Governments (November 6, 2000).
- B. Regulations implementing the above authorities:
  - 1. The Council on Environmental Quality NEPA regulations (40 C.F.R. Parts 1500-1508).
  - 2. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation NHPA regulations (36 C.F.R. Part 800).
  - 3. BLM’s planning regulations (in particular, 43 C.F.R. §§ 1601.0-5, 1610.3-1, and 1610.4).
- C. Other Authorities:
  - 1. The Department of Interior Manual (516 DM 2.5).

### IV. Roles and Responsibilities

- A. The NTIA Responsibilities:
  - a. As lead agency under 40 C.F.R. § 1501.5, the NTIA (or their representative) retains final responsibility for the content of all NEPA documents and the primary responsibility for completion of NHPA and associated Tribal consultations. The NTIA’s responsibilities include determining the purpose and need for the project, selecting alternatives for analysis, identifying the Area of Potential Effects (APE) under NHPA and analyzing the effects of the proposed alternatives, selecting the preferred alternative, determining appropriate mitigation measures and concluding all consultations required under NEPA and NHPA. In meeting these responsibilities, the NTIA will follow all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.

- b. To the fullest extent possible and consistent with its responsibilities as lead agency, the NTIA will consider comments, recommendations, data requests, and/or analysis provided by the BLM, giving particular consideration to those topics on which the BLM is acknowledged to possess jurisdiction by law or special expertise in the NEPA, NHPA, and associated Tribal consultation.
- c. The NTIA will provide a copy of the Draft and Final EAs and NHPA-associated cultural resource studies addressing BLM land for review to the BLM and will provide a reasonable time-period for the BLM to review the documents and provide comments.
- d. The NTIA will provide BLM with any comments, recommendations, or requests received from outside parties relevant to BLM's NHPA and Tribal consultations for NTIA BTOP project activities and undertakings that occur on BLM lands.
- e. When agreed as necessary, the NTIA, BLM, and any other appropriate entities will enter into Programmatic Agreements with relevant State Historic Preservation Offices for any BTOP project occurring on BLM lands in the States of California or Nevada, consistent with their responsibilities under the NHPA, and consider any comments or recommendations pertaining to those portions of NTIA BTOP projects that occur on BLM lands. If no Programmatic Agreement is in place, the NTIA will be responsible for completing any documentation necessary to complete NHPA compliance, including possible "Memorandums of Agreement".
- f. The NTIA agrees to withhold final environmental decision on the project until resolving any outstanding issues relative to the BLM use permit.
- g. The NTIA agrees that the proponent will use the least impacting installation process that is feasible in consultation with the BLM on BLM lands.

**B. BLM Responsibilities:**

- a. The BLM is a cooperating agency under this planning process and is recognized to have jurisdiction by law and special expertise in the following areas:
  - 1. Jurisdiction by law over activities occurring on the BLM lands, and
  - 2. Special expertise in Native American issues on the BLM lands.
- b. As a cooperating agency with land management administrative jurisdiction, the BLM will issue its own FONSI and Right-of-Way permit and/or Notice to Proceed decision based on the final EA prepared by NTIA in consultation with BLM.
- c. The BLM will provide information, comments, and technical expertise to the NTIA regarding those elements of an EA, or NHPA and/or Tribal

consultations, and the data and analysis supporting them, in which it has jurisdiction or special expertise or for which the NTIA requests their assistance. In particular the BLM will provide access to the following:

1. Historical, cultural, or archeological information on or associated with the BLM lands, and
  2. Any issues that are relevant to planning issues or data needs.
- d. Within the areas of their jurisdiction or special expertise, the BLM may participate as requested by the NTIA in the following activities:
1. Identifying data needs,
  2. Suggesting management actions to resolve issues,
  3. Providing written comments on the draft and final EA,
  4. Suggesting mitigation measures on the BLM lands, and
  5. Participating in telecoms or other outreach methods to the grant recipient, tribal entities, local stakeholders, or other government entities

C. Responsibilities of the Parties:

- a. The Parties agree to comply with the tight time-frames associated with the BTOP grants and all time-frames established by NTIA for reviews and submissions, including the timeframes established by the ARRA and other authorities listed in section III of this Agreement. These time-frames will be coordinated closely with the applicable BLM offices for concurrence.
- b. BLM acknowledges that a cost-recovery system will be required to reimburse the BLM staff for reviews and outreach efforts. This cost-recovery will be negotiated with the grant-recipient and paid for through the BTOP grant.

V. Dispute Resolution

A. The Parties will participate in the EA and NHPA processes in good faith and make reasonable efforts to resolve disagreements. Where procedural or substantive disagreements may impede the effective and timely completion of a BTOP EA, the Parties agree to refer the issue to their respective Department (Interior or Commerce, as appropriate).

B. Where the NTIA and the BLM disagree on substantive elements of the BTOP EA, and these disagreements cannot be resolved, the NTIA will include a summary of the BLM's views in the final EA.

C. Any disagreements between NTIA and BLM in relation to NHPA consultations for the portion of NTIA BTOP projects that occur on BLM lands are subject to elevation to the

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation pursuant to the provisions of 36 C.F.R. Part 800.

D. The BLM retains the authority to withhold a Right-of-Way Grant and/or the Notice to Proceed, which are required to perform work on BLM lands for any NTIA BTOP project until any disagreements are resolved.

## VI. Other Provisions

A. Authorities not altered. Nothing in this MOU alters, limits, or supersedes the authorities and responsibilities of any Party on any matter within their respective jurisdictions. Nothing in this MOU shall require any of the Parties to perform beyond its respective authority.

B. Financial obligations. The Parties do not contemplate a transfer of funds between the Parties at any time. The Parties' obligations under this MOU are subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Nothing in this MOU shall require any of the Parties to assume any obligation or expend any sum in excess of authorization and appropriations available. NTIA will take the lead in responding to any potential litigation and NTIA and BLM agree to equitably apportion any associated litigation costs.

C. Immunity and Defenses Retained. Each Party retains all immunities and defenses provided by law with respect to any action based on or occurring as a result of this MOU.

D. Conflicts of interest. The Parties agree not to utilize any individual or organization for the purposes of comment and review of EA documents, having a financial interest on the outcome of the BTOP grant.

E. Management of information. The Parties acknowledge that all supporting materials, draft, and final documents will become part of the administrative record and may be subject to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. § 552) and other federal statutes. To the extent permitted by law, the BLM and the NTIA agree not to release these materials to individuals or entities other than the Parties to this MOU.

F. Coordination with contractors. The NTIA acknowledges that the EAs and certain studies supporting NHPA consultations will be prepared by the grant recipient who may rely heavily on contractor support to obtain data, develop analysis, and prepare the documents. The BLM is free to provide information directly to the grant recipient or their designated contractor and to collaborate with contractor's technical staff and/or subcontractors on matters relating to the BLM's jurisdiction or special expertise.

VII. Agency Representatives

Each Party has designated a primary and alternate representative to ensure cooperation between the BLM and the NTIA during the planning process. Such designations are attached in Appendix A. Each party may change its representative at will by providing written notice to the other Party.

VIII. Administration of the MOU

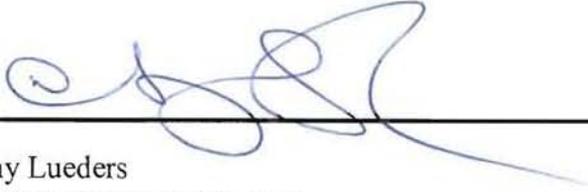
A. Approval. This MOU becomes effective upon signature by the authorized officials of the BLM and the NTIA.

B. Amendment. This MOU may be amended at any time through written agreement of all signatories.

C. Termination. This agreement will terminate the earlier of: (a) in five (5) years from the date of the final signature or (b) the date of signature by NTIA of the final Finding of No Significant Impact for NTIA BTOP project occurring on BLM lands in the States of California or Nevada. Any Party may terminate this MOU by providing 30 days prior written notice to the other Party.

D. For purposes of this Agreement, facsimile and electronic signatures of authorized representatives of the Parties and Tribes, including such signatures in counterparts, are acceptable.

IX. Signatures



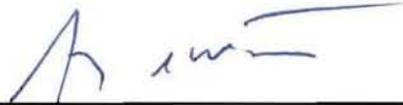
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Amy Lueders  
BLM Acting State Director  
Nevada



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James Wesley Abbott  
BLM Acting State Director  
California



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Anthony G. Wilhelm, Ph.D.  
Director, Broadband Technology Opportunities Program  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
United States Department of Commerce

Attachment

**APPENDIX A**

**Primary and Alternative Representatives  
For The  
Memorandum of Understanding  
Between  
The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)  
And  
The Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), California and Nevada  
Offices**

Until further notice by the Party involved, the designated primary and alternate representatives to contact on behalf of any of the Parties shall be:

NTIA Primary: Genevieve Walker, 202-482-2345 or [gwalker@doc.gov](mailto:gwalker@doc.gov)

NTIA Alternate: Frank Monteferrante, 202-482-4208 or [fmonteferrante@ntia.doc.gov](mailto:fmonteferrante@ntia.doc.gov)

BLM Primary: Este Stifel, 916-978-4614 or [astifel@blm.gov](mailto:astifel@blm.gov)

BLM Alternate: Mary Figarelle, [mfigarelle@blm.gov](mailto:mfigarelle@blm.gov) or 775-861-6429

TO: Lynn Zonge, Resource Concepts  
FROM: Dean Tonenna, Botanist  
DATE: July 26, 2011  
SUBJECT: Initial scoping for botany and noxious weed input into EA.

Botany: Our records do not show any known occurrences of any plant species that is federally listed as threatened, endangered or is proposed for listing. There are no records for any BLM sensitive species in the area; however, this area has not been surveyed. Our records consist of information from the Nevada Natural Heritage Program, USFWS Nevada Office and from BLM staff surveys

A complete floristic survey on BLM land would be needed to: 1.) Determine if the area has sensitive plant species or is suitable habitat for sensitive plant species; 2.) Detect the presence or absence of noxious weeds; 3.) Determine what native species are present at the site that would be appropriate for future restoration. Restoration of disturbed areas shall include a BLM-approved native seed mix.

Weeds: There are no known noxious weeds mapped within the project area, however further inventory may reveal additional noxious weed locations. The transport of noxious weeds throughout the project area will be an ongoing issue for the lifetime of the project. The project proponent will be required to conduct a yearly survey for noxious weeds by a qualified botanist recommended by the BLM or the NV Department of Agriculture. If noxious weeds are found, the project proponent will be required to develop a comprehensive noxious weed plan of operation in which the company will fund and implement all actions including surveys, treatments and restoration. The plan must interface with other existing federal, state, tribal and county weed programs where there are shared boundaries or cooperative agreements in place.

All weed treatments on BLM-administered land are required to be in conformance with BLM manual 9011 and the Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides in 17 Western States PEIS.

BLM requires the following proposals and reports for any weed treatment activities occurring on BLM-administered land:

#### Chemical Control

Pesticide Use Proposal

Pesticide Application Record

Pesticide Use Report

#### Biological Control

Biological Control Agent Release Proposal

Biological Control Agent Release Record.

All of these forms are available from the BLM office.



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**The Assistant Secretary for Communications**  
**and Information**  
Washington, D.C. 20230

JAN 11 2011

Mr. Michael Nedd  
Assistant Director  
Minerals and Realty Management  
Bureau of Land Management  
1849 C Street N.W., Room 5625  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Consultation Regarding Activities on BLM Land under Projects Funded by the  
NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)

Dear Mr. Nedd:

I am writing to seek the support of the Bureau of Land Management with respect to a Department of Commerce initiative that the President has identified as a critical component of his efforts to speed the nation's economic recovery.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), through the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) and as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), is funding projects to deploy new or improved broadband Internet facilities (*e.g.*, laying new fiber-optic cables or upgrading wireless towers) in unserved or underserved areas of the nation and to connect "community anchor institutions," such as schools, libraries, hospitals, and public safety facilities. These facilities will help ensure sustainable community growth and provide the foundation for enhanced household and business broadband Internet services throughout the country. Based on the requirements of ARRA and the terms and conditions of the BTOP grant awards, these projects must be substantially complete within two years and fully complete within three years of the award date.

NTIA has made grant awards to several recipients whose projects include deployment of minimally-invasive broadband facilities on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property. Deployment involves hanging fiber from existing poles, minimal trenching to lay cable conduit along existing road rights-of-way, and in some cases, placement of small prefabricated equipment sheds along the rights-of-way.

So far we have identified five BTOP projects that fall on BLM lands, as follows:

**California**

- Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative, which will deploy facilities to provide broadband access to the rural Sierra region of northeastern California
- California Broadband Cooperative, Inc., which will deploy a 553-mile fiber network, mainly along U.S. Route 395 between southern and northern California

### **Oregon**

- City of Bend, Oregon (Bend Cable Communications, LLC), which will deploy facilities to provide Internet access to the surrounding region

### **Nevada**

- Nevada Hospital Association, which will provide statewide telemedicine network

### **New Mexico**

- North Central New Mexico Economic Development District, which will deploy a broadband network across north central New Mexico

In order to ensure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. § 4321 *et seq.*) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 U.S.C. § 470 *et seq.*), NTIA has required our grant recipients whose projects include ground disturbing activities to prepare an Environmental Assessment that includes appropriate environmental and cultural resource studies. Given the tight ARRA timeframes, NTIA requests your assistance in expediting environmental and cultural resource permitting processes when such investigations affect BLM lands.

While only a portion of these large projects occur on BLM lands, we have been informed by your State offices in California and Nevada that each would prefer BLM to be a Cooperating Agency on the NTIA Environmental Assessment pursuant to the NEPA regulations (40 C.F.R. § 1501). NTIA agrees that entering into such a Cooperating Agency Agreement with BLM is an appropriate means to document our collective efforts to streamline NEPA reviews for BTOP projects on BLM lands, and we look forward to working with BLM staff to draft such an agreement. To ensure that such Cooperating Agency status does not adversely impact the aggressive construction timeframes established for these projects, however, we ask that you accept the same turn-around time for document review that NTIA has placed on itself, namely two weeks. We also ask BLM to allow NTIA to finalize Environmental Assessments and issue Findings of No Significant Impact (FONSIs) before grantees obtain their necessary BLM permits. Any FONSI that requires mitigation would include a provision that no work may be performed on BLM lands until the BLM permit is obtained.

Further, to ensure timely completion of all NHPA review requirements, we ask that BLM honor the spirit and intent of the enclosed National Programmatic Agreement (NPA) entered into on November 10, 2009 among NTIA, the Rural Utilities Service, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Council of State Historic Preservation Officers by not requiring additional consultation for the portions of these projects that occur over existing power lines. This NPA recognizes NTIA's delegation of certain consultation responsibilities to BTOP grantees and stipulates that broadband over existing power lines has such minimal potential to affect historic properties that NTIA does not need to account for associated effects on historic properties. BLM concurrence with this stipulation would greatly expedite any consultations required for BTOP projects on BLM lands.

NTIA is prepared and willing at any time to participate directly in the review process as needed. As monitoring the progress of each of these projects is vital to their success, please copy Ms.

Genevieve Walker, the Department of Commerce NEPA Coordinator, on your response. She may be reached at 202-482-2345 or by email at gwalker@doc.gov. I greatly appreciate your consideration of these requests and look forward to working with you to expedite the implementation of ARRA-funded grants.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lawrence E. Strickling". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Lawrence E. Strickling

Enclosure

**The Nevada Hospital Association Nevada Broadband Telemedicine Initiative  
BLM Carson City District Office  
Meeting Summary Notes  
November 1, 2011, 10 am**

**Attendees:**

BLM            Brian Buttazoni; Charles Valentine; Cory Gardner; Jim Carter  
RCI            Lynn Zonge  
Optica        Tom Lane

Via Conference Line:

Gnomon        Mike Drews  
BLM:          Wendy Seley, Sue Rigby  
                Susan Farkas; Phil Rhinehart

**Introductions:**

The meeting kicked off with everyone introducing themselves.

RCI and CCDO will coordinate the project with BIA in a separate conference call.

**Cost Recovery Status:**

Was discussed briefly, it still has not been finalized by Denver.

**RCI's Review of BLM Comments:**

**Comment Format:**

- Brian combined all into one table and one PDF document—RCI will respond to the table and via the Reply function for the PDF document.
- Susan requested that RCI respond to her questions that were in table format.
- Visual Resources—Brian will send RCI the statewide VRM shapefiles (provided on 11/2).
- Goldfield Land Sales—Wendy will send RCI the shape files for the recent land sales in the Goldfield area.
- Cumulative Impacts—Wendy will send RCI the shape files for the Crescent Dunes project.
- NEPA Geo Database—Brian will look into it and advise.
- NDOT projects—RCI to contact NDOT regarding their proposed projects in the vicinity.

**Cultural Resources:**

- Sue Rigby and Mike Drews agreed the west side between Goldfield and Lida Junction would have less probability of impacting cultural resources than the east side.
- Tom and Lynn clarified that from Goldfield to Lida Junction the new buried line would go within the NDOT ROW, 5 feet inside of the fence, on the west side of the highway.

- Mike explained that there was a 2010 NDOT cultural resources survey completed for the northern half (north of approximately MP 11.5) but the southern half had not been surveyed since the 1980s, and the previous survey corridor did not go to the NDOT ROW boundary fence. It was agreed that a Class III survey should be completed for the southern half of the route. Mike would start with his team on Monday November 7<sup>th</sup>. The survey team would document areas to avoid and if a site takes up the entire ROW then Mike would survey an avoidance route.
- Jim requested a post field report (so we would know quickly what they found) be provided to NTIA and BLM next week, followed by a Cultural Resources Report within a month. If per the BLM/SHPO Protocol there are No Historic Properties or No Adverse Effect (all historic properties avoided), then there would be no SHPO review required.
- Mike will coordinate with Lynn on the one mile stretch at Beatty Junction, and as necessary, he will conduct a Class III survey there at the same time as the survey north of Lida Junction.
- Tom will review the location of the new buried line(s) again this week, or in the field next Monday with Mike, and if any adjustment is necessary such that the line needs to be outside of the NDOT ROW, he will work with Lynn and Mike to conduct the necessary survey.
- This is not a cultural resources issue, but there are two mineral pits between Goldfield to Lida Junction on the west side of the highway that need to be avoided. RCI should coordinate with NDOT on this.

### **Legal Description**

- Cory will be entering the legal description into the LR 2000 database. Chuck is coordinating with the Field Offices for review of the legal description. A draft of the legal description has been completed but is currently being finalized by RCI.

### **Biological**

- BO due from USFWS on Dec 15<sup>th</sup>. Brian Novosak is writing it and has been in frequent contact with RCI.
- BA will be provided from RCI to the BLM for their information (provided on 11/2).
- RCI was advised to contact Devin Englstead regarding eagles.
- RCI was advised to contact Frederic in the LV FO regarding removal of the VEA line through the Mesquite Bosque ACEC.

### **Other Permits**

- Other permits need to be defined with responsible parties in the EA.
- The 404 nationwide permit needs to be secured as soon as possible. It is NOT a post FONSI item for the BLM.
- Brian stated that RCI should proceed with this effort to determine potential jurisdictional waters.

### **Compliance Inspection**

- Compliance inspection requirements will be detailed by the BLM.
- An archaeological inspector may be required for the buried portion between Goldfield and Lida Junction.

### **Schedule**

- Responses to BLM's comments on the preliminary EA to BLM on Nov 14<sup>th</sup> and those responses will be distributed to the field offices. Field offices will need to provide feedback to CCDO by Nov 18 if there is an issue that remains outstanding on the comments and responses.
- 30 day Public Review in December. To be determined – possible December 5 to January 4.

**Meeting Summary**  
**September 1, 10am BLM Carson City District Office**

*Present in the Office:*

Brian Buttazoni	BLM Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Sierra Front FO
Erik Pignata	BLM Realty Specialist, Stillwater FO
Ken Nelson	BLM Realty Specialist, Sierra Front FO
James Carter	BLM Lead Archaeologist, Sierra Front FO
Cory Gardner	BLM Land Law Examiner, Stillwater FO
Lynn Zonge	Resource Concepts, Inc. Permitting
Marvin Tebeau	Resource Concepts, Inc. Permitting

*Present Via Phone:*

Frank Monteferrante	NTIA, Grant Officer
Stacy Jenkins	Optica, Engineering
Mike Drews	Gnomon, Archaeologist
Susan Farcus	BLM Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Pahrump FO
Phil Rhinehart	BLM Realty Specialist, Las Vegas FO
John Evans	BLM Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Las Vegas FO
Frederick Marcell	BLM Realty Specialist, Pahrump FO
Tom Seley	BLM Field Manager, Tonopah FO
Susan Rigby	BLM Archaeologist, Tonopah FO
John Hartley	BLM Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Tonopah FO
Wendy Seley	BLM Realty Specialist, Battle Mountain DO

**Note:**

ARRA = American Recovery and Reinvestment Act  
BTOP = Broadband Technology Opportunities Program  
DR = Decision Record  
FO = Field Office  
NDOT = Nevada Dept of Transportation  
NTIA = National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
NVE = NV Energy  
VEA = Valley Electric Association

**Introductions**

Brian B lead the meeting and opened with introductions

Shapefiles, Chapters 1 and 2 and Draft Cost Recovery had been disseminated to the offices.

**Role of NTIA and the Grant**

Frank with NTIA described the BTOP, broadband infrastructure; 4.7 billion under ARRA; The Entire project must be completed by July 21 2013. Need a timely, concise NEPA document. Special Award Conditions (SACs) will require Grantees to abide by certain requirements post BTOP award. These SACs may include surveys or Pas for compliance with Section 106.

**Other Federal Agencies**

Lynn and Marvin indicated that communications with other federal agencies including the DOD, USFS, and BIA were on-going.

**Coordination with Existing ROW holders:**

Stacy Jenkins indicated that communications with NVE, VEA, and NDOT were on-going and these entities were cooperating in moving this project forward using their poles and ROWs. He described the cable, the regen stations, the handholes, the overhead, the underground and using existing conduit.

MOUs with the NVE, VEA, and NDOT are in the works

Tom Seley indicated

- the VEA has a permit from the BLM to move their line out of the wetlands near Beatty
- the NDOT will be moving Hwy 95 to the west both north and south of Goldfield.
- The Timbi-Sha Shoshone are not federally recognized but have land and interest in the area.

Frank indicated:

- The TCNS goes out to federally recognized tribes; some communication is in writing.

Jim C, indicated he had been in discussions with Jill regarding the Tribes. He recommended mail contact with a phone follow-up

### **Community Outreach**

Frank indicated that Community outreach was not a part of the NTIA tasks

Stacy indicated that NHA has reached out to all of the member hospitals. In addition the 295 community anchors institutions (Schools, courthouses, etc) have also been approached.

Frederick from Pahrump suggested that the County Commissioners would like contact with the project

Stacy and Frank indicated that the final project has an open access component as well as a public safety component.

### **BLM/NTIA MOU and the Project Route**

Brian re-iterated that the CC office was the BLM NEPA lead. All questions should go through the CC office. The per the BLM/NTIA MOU, BLM is concerned with the BLM land only.

The spreadsheet was reviewed to see the number of miles of buried and overhead in each Field Office

Susan-Pahrump-indicated that there was an ACEC associated with the mesquite Bosque near Amargosa which is an ACEC; there is a WHMA north of Amargosa.

Susan-Pahrump-indicated there is a new State College project in the RR Pass area.

Tom Seley expressed concern that some of the VEA lines were put in pre-NEPA and some do not have access roads under existing ROW Grants.

Susan expressed concerns regarding cumulative impacts from the new Solar projects.

Wendy expressed confusion regarding which line will actually be used as there are two in the same area—T9S R45 E section 3—needs to be clarified.

Susan Indicated that the tribes in S. Nevada should be contacted.

### **Types of Construction**

Stacy went over the 3 types of construction—using existing conduit, using existing poles, and new underground. He also described the techniques used for overhead ranging from use of bucket trucks and driving to each pole, to hiking and climbing the poles and using rope to pull the cable through.

Helicopters and why they are not appropriate for below wire installation was discussed by Stacy and the group.

Tom Seley asked why the NV Bell conduit was not being used. It was explained that there is a competitive conflict with AT&T. But if the project was upgraded in recent years, then the environmental data could be used.

Stacy also described the underground techniques using vibratory plow, rock saw if needed.

### **SHPO - Archaeology**

Mike Drews summarized his findings of no impact or outside of known archaeological resources. Susan indicated the Old Spanish Trail may be near the project. Could be a cumulative effect for visual impacts when added with the Solar projects.

Two projects are proposed in that area—Bright Source from California and Crescent Dunes Solar Energy Project.

Susan Rigby indicated that at Tonopah Lake there are multiple pre-historic sites—it has not been thoroughly surveyed.

Mike explained that his Class I survey was only for the new buried and that the Programmatic Agreement exempts section 106 when hanging cable from existing overhead poles. Determination of the need for Class III for the new underground portion in Tonopah FO is pending the outcome from discussions of the Class I with SHPO.

### **Tribal Consultation**

Frank explained the automated TCNS process as reaching out to federally recognized tribes with interests of either ancestral or reservation lands. A paper system accompanies the e-mails to the tribes. The NTIA contacts the tribes if necessary.

Jim C. re-iterated that contacting the tribes directly was a good idea.

### **ACOE**

Lynn explained there are a handful of waters crossed on the Goldfield to Lida underground which would fall under a NW #12. permit.

### **USFWS**

NTIA initiated formal consultation for the desert tortoise and it is on-going.

### **Biological Inventories**

Carson City is requiring no inventories  
Tonopah will want inventories for the Amargosa Toad and the Desert Tortoise  
All other offices have not taken the project to their resource specialists.

### **Additional Resources to be Included:**

The various offices offered the following to be included in the EA:

- Recreation
- Air Quality
- Invasive and noxious weeds
- Fire
- Mining and Minerals

Susan mentioned there needs to be a reference to connected actions in Chapter 2

### **BLM Public Review Process**

Brian reiterated what was on the agenda: the draft EA will have a 30 day public review in e-Planning; the CCDO will coordinate for a state-wide news release; the CCDO will coordinate with the State Clearinghouse; the CCDO is responsible for the FONSI and Decision Record (DR) but will not issue it until all other federal authorizations and clearances are complete.

There is a 30-day appeal period after the Decision Record is signed

The BLM would like the EA in PDF format

### **Misc Wrap-up:**

The AT&T line should be added as “considered but eliminated from detailed analyses”

Ken requested accurate legal descriptions from the case files for the CC Land Examiner (Cory)

Tom asked if Compliance Inspector Contractors (CICs) would be required?

What kind of Bonding would be required?

A community meeting for the Goldfield to Lida route was recommended

All Field offices requested an in-house presentation of the project to their staff.

Frank indicated that the BLM should review the draft EA within 2 weeks if at all possible

The meeting concluded at 12:20 pm

### **POST MEETING ITEMS**

CCDO and Resource Concepts discussed the following items:

1. Resource concepts (Lynn) can be available to meet with Southern Nevada DO and Tonopah FO ID teams between September 19 and 21. **All kick-off oriented meetings with Field Offices must be concluded by September 22.** Lynn will be contacting the realty specialists to coordinate.
2. Field offices requesting any biological inventories (excluding desert tortoise) must send those to CCDO no later than September 28.
3. Tentatively, **a preliminary version of the EA (with some incomplete sections) will be provided to the Field Offices on September 26 for review until October 7.** If time affords prior to release of the EA for public review, the field offices may get a second look at the EA with revisions and comments addressed. Otherwise field offices will have the 30-day review period to submit additional revisions.
4. The EA can go out for public review even if Section 7 and 106 consultations are still pending. The public review period may be October 31-November 29.

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**From:** Buttazoni, Brian L [mailto:bbuttazoni@blm.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 04, 2011 1:35 PM  
**To:** Lynn Zonge  
**Subject:** RE: NHA Fiber Project Next Round

Responding to our comments, send us back the tables and PDF with your input.

As for the next version, I do want to see a Word version with track changes, but we will only send a clean PDF to the field offices. If you can make the PDF comment enabled, go ahead, otherwise we can do that when we get the copy.

Brian L. Buttazoni  
Planning and Environmental Coordinator  
Sierra Front Field Office  
(775) 885-6004

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**From:** Buttazoni, Brian L [mailto:bbuttazoni@blm.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 28, 2011 2:47 PM  
**To:** Lynn Zonge  
**Subject:** SNDO Comments

Attached are Vegas' botany and wildlife comments. I am checking to see if this is everything from them or not. I am still reviewing the EA and will finish today.

Brian L. Buttazoni  
Planning and Environmental Coordinator  
Sierra Front Field Office  
(775) 885-6004  
(775) 885-6147 (fax)

**From:** Buttazoni, Brian L [mailto:bbuttazoni@blm.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 05, 2011 3:26 PM  
**To:** Lynn Zonge; Marcell, Frederick F; Seley, Wendy L; Rhinehart, Philip R; Valentine, Charles A  
**Subject:** Hospital Assoc EA

The draft EA is now available in ePlanning for public review until January 4, 2012.

<https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/planAndProjectSite.do?methodName=renderDefaultPlanOrProjectSite&projectId=22253&dctmId=0b0003e8801ca750>

I am still working with public affairs to put it up on the Tonopah, and Southern Nevada websites.

Brian L Buttazoni  
Environmental Coordinator  
Sierra Front Field Office

(775) 885-6004  
(775) 885-6147 (fax)

**From:** Buttazoni, Brian L [mailto:bbuttazoni@blm.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 05, 2012 9:02 AM  
**To:** Lynn Zonge  
**Subject:** FW: Nevada State Clearinghouse Comments E2012-088 EA - Nevada Broadband Telemedicine Initiative

This was the **only** comment we received. Did you get the BO?

*Brian L Buttazoni*  
NEPA Specialist  
Sierra Front Field Office  
(775) 885-6004  
(775) 885-6147 (fax)

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**From:** Buttazoni, Brian L [mailto:bbuttazoni@blm.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 19, 2012 9:23 AM  
**To:** Lynn Zonge  
**Subject:** RE: Couple Items on Hospital

Yes send the POD to Chuck. As for the Final EA, did NTIA indicate they will be issuing their FONSI once they receive it?

*Brian L Buttazoni*  
NEPA Specialist  
Sierra Front Field Office  
(775) 885-6004  
(775) 885-6147 (fax)



# Gnomon, Inc.

*Resource Management Computing, Analysis, and Mapping*

1601 Fairview Drive, Suite F • Carson City, Nevada 89701 • (775) 885-2305

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November 10, 2011

James Carter  
Archaeologist  
BLM, Sierra Front Field Office  
5665 Morgan Mill Road  
Carson City, NV 89701

Re: Goldfield to Lida Junction Inventory for RCI Fiber Optic Line

Dear Jim,

On November 7 and 8, 2011, Gnomon, Inc., conducted a Class III inventory of an approximate 8-mile segment along the west side of U.S. Highway 95 from mile post 12 in Esmeralda County to Lida Junction (SR 266) and another 2-mile segment along Highway 95 near Scotty's Junction (SR 267) on Timbisha tribal land (Map 1a, Map 1b).

Nevada Hospital Association intends to construct a buried fiber optic line on Federal lands between Goldfield and Lida Junction (Alignment 4-3) under a National Telecommunications and Information Initiative NTIA protocol. A Class I overview of the project alignment indicated that a Class III cultural resources inventory of the US 95 right-of-way from Goldfield south to Milepost 12 had been conducted in 2010 (Smith 2010). No National Register eligible properties were identified within that portion of the highway right-of-way. The remainder of the alignment from Milepost 12 to Lida Junction was inventoried by NDOT in 1984 but that inventory does not meet current BLM inventory standards. Pursuant to a project status conference call on November 1, 2011 between projects proponents, the Bureau of Land Management, and consultants, it was determined that the segment from Milepost 12 to Lida Junction would be inventoried to current BLM Class III standards. At the same time a short segment of highway right-of-way on Timbisha lands at Scotty's Junction would be evaluated. The proposed fiber optic line is to be constructed 6 feet east of the NDOT right-of-way fence located 200 feet west of the highway centerline.

Prior to the inventory, a record search was conducted using NVCRIS, as well as an on-site file search at the BLM, Tonopah Field Office utilizing a 400 foot search buffer on the west side of Highway 95 from Goldfield to Lida Junction and the two mile section at Scotty's Junction (Tables 1 and 2). As a result, 15 previously recorded sites and 16 previous inventories were identified. Of the 15 sites, four are located within the Goldfield to Lida Junction portion of the project area. No sites are reported in the Scotty's Junction portion of the project area. All previously recorded sites, with the exception of ES597, have been determined not eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. Site ES597, a segment of historic railroad grade, is located on the east side of Highway 95 and the proposed project will have no effect on this site.

Survey methods included two pedestrian transects walked at approximate 30 m intervals within the 200 foot right-of-way corridor. Special attention was paid to the area adjacent to the right-of-way fence where construction will take place. As a result of the inventory, five isolated artifacts (Map 2a, Map 2b and Table 3) and one site were identified.

### Site GL3

Site GL3 consists of the remains of a structure, two artifact concentrations, a concentration of deer-sized faunal remains, and a few additional scattered artifacts (Map 3 and 4). Two additional lumber piles were noted on the west side of the right-of-way fence, approximately 20-30 feet west of the mapped structural remains.

The structural remains (F1), measuring 19 feet (E-W) by 31 feet (N-S), consists of a sill beam foundation (5 1/4 inch thick by 9 inch wide) with 3/4 inch thick by 5 1/4 wide planks nailed to the top of the beams (see attached photos). Entrance openings are located at the north and south ends of the foundation. Hardware includes 16D machine nails and one railroad spike. The additional lumber piles located to the west of F1 were noted and photographed, but not recorded. The pile directly west of F1 consists of trim materials (1x4s and 1x6s) and the other pile includes several beams of similar dimension to the sill beams in F1. Concentration 1 (C1) consists of a pile of 50-75 16D machine nails located about 5 feet east of the southeast corner of F1. Concentration 2 includes three cans: a hinged, external friction tobacco tin, an 8 ounce wind key food can, and a soft top, pull tab beer or soda can. Concentration 3 contains the axial elements of a deer-sized animal including cervical vertebrae, ribs, and a scapula; however, butcher marks were not noted. Other scattered artifacts include a 2 pound, slip-top food can, another hinged, external friction tobacco tin, and a punch top beer can.

Given the proximity to the highway, it is possible that the artifacts are not associated with the collapsed structure. However, compared with the artifact density of the surveyed corridor, these artifacts are clustered more densely, so their association to the structure is somewhat likely. Dateable artifacts fall within the mid-1950s to the 1960s. As such, it does not appear that this structure was associated with the Cottontail Ranch brothel, located about 750 feet to the south, which opened in 1967 and closed in 2004. These buildings are still standing.

The 1962 GLO illustrates a store in the present location of the abandoned brothel, a garage located to the southwest, and a windmill located to the south. Nothing is annotated in the location of Feature 1 on either of the 1962 GLO nor the 1971 GLO maps. Although the function of the structure is unknown, it appears to have been relatively short lived within the 1950s to the 1960s, potentially as an outbuilding or shed associated with the structures noted on the 1962 GLO. The site is not associated with significant events or persons, nor does it represent a distinctive architectural style. The archaeological remains are limited to the surface and additional research would not address important research questions. As such, site GL3 is recommended not eligible to the National Register of Historic Places and the proposed project will have no effect on significant cultural resources.

Please contact me with any comments or questions you may have regarding the enclosed delivered items.

Sincerely,



Jeremy Hall  
Archaeologist / GIS Specialist

Attached: Maps 1-4; Tables 1-3; Photos  
CC: Susan Rigby, BLM Archaeologist, Tonopah Field Office  
Lynn Zong, Hydrologist, RCI

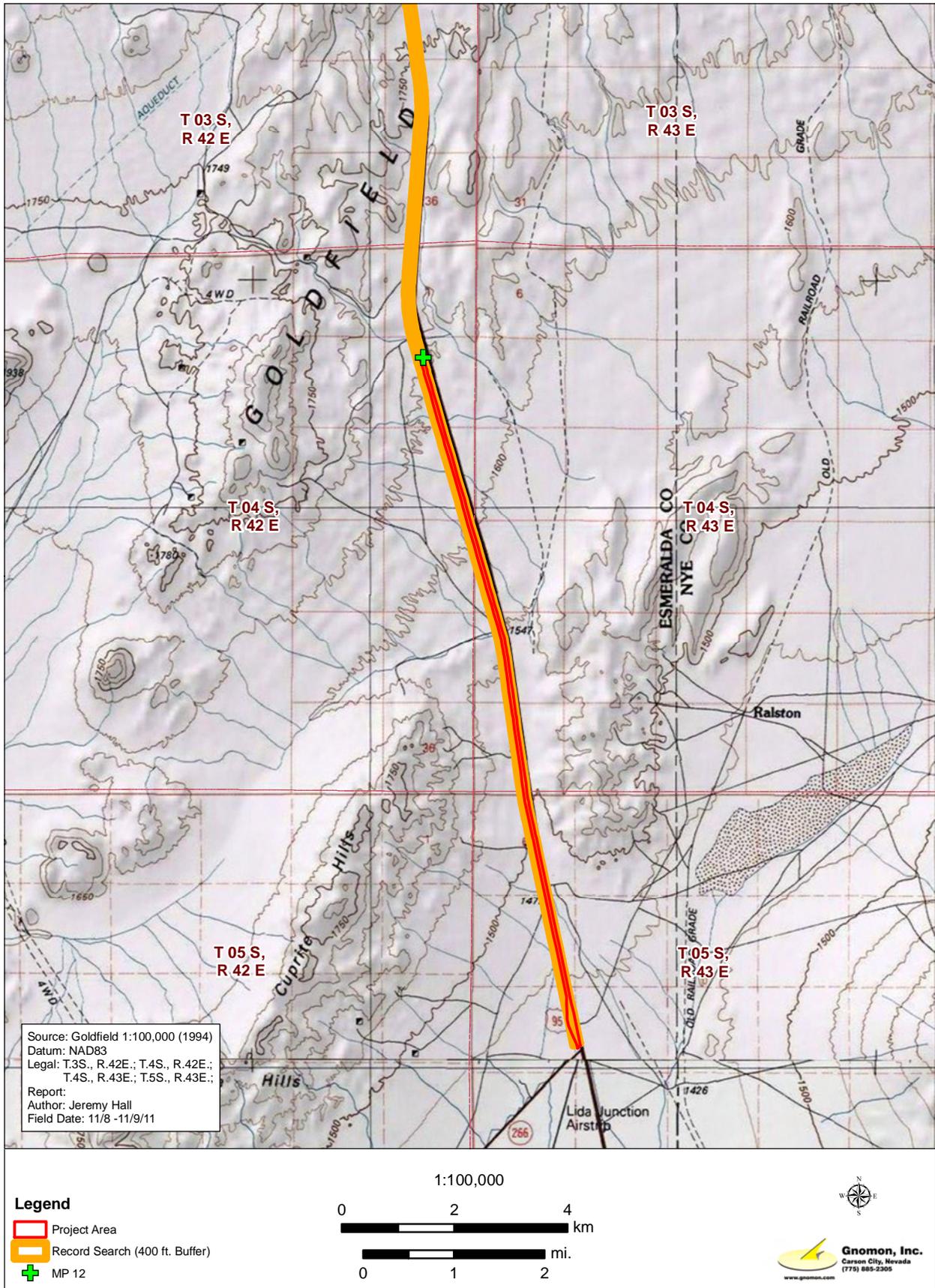
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## Referenced Cited

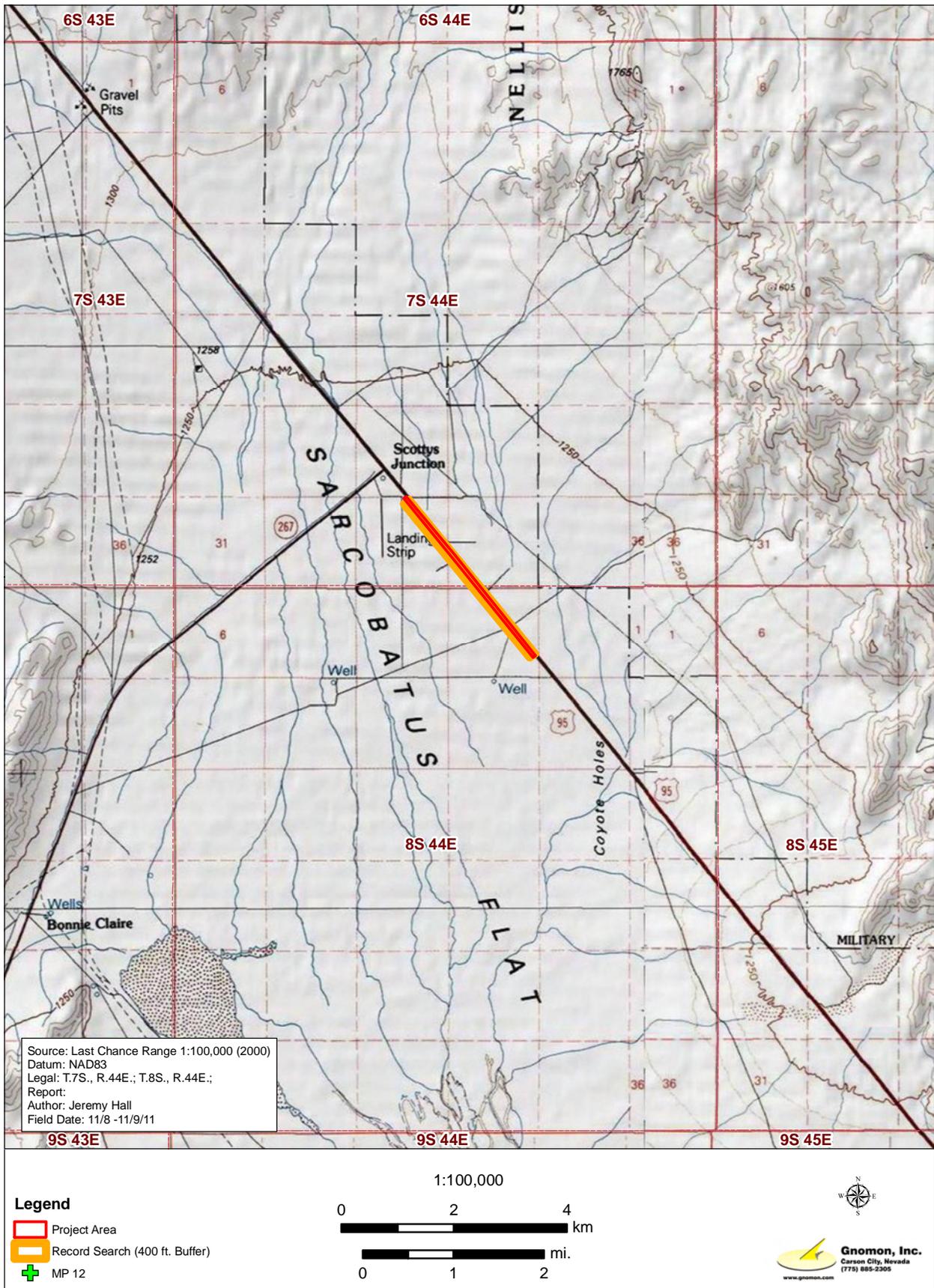
Smith, Beth P.

2010 *An Archaeological Assessment for the US95 Corridor from MP ES11.996-ES32.880, Goldfield, Esmeralda County, Nevada*. Nevada Department of Transportation, Environmental Services Division, Cultural Resources Section. BLM Report CRR 6-2814.

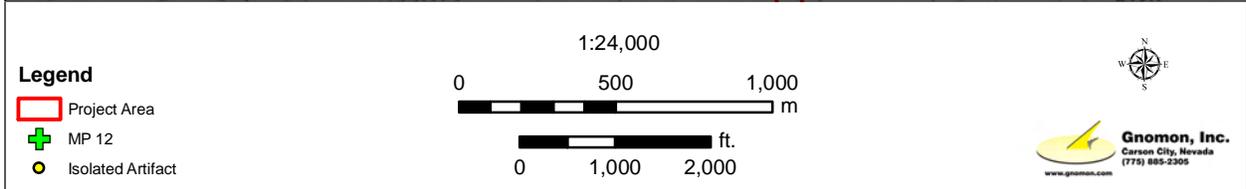
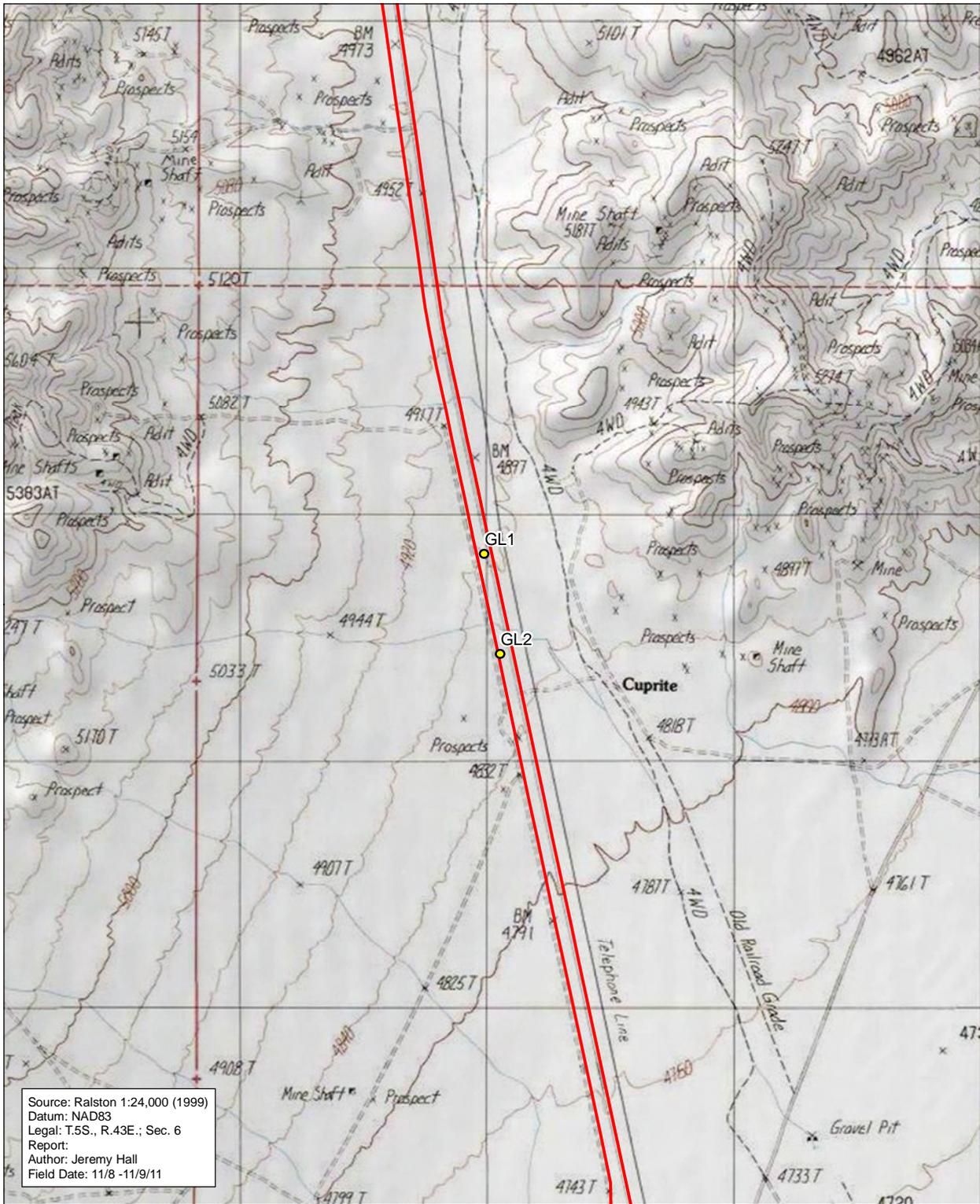
## **MAPS**



Map 1a. Project area (MP12 to Lida Junction) and record search buffer.



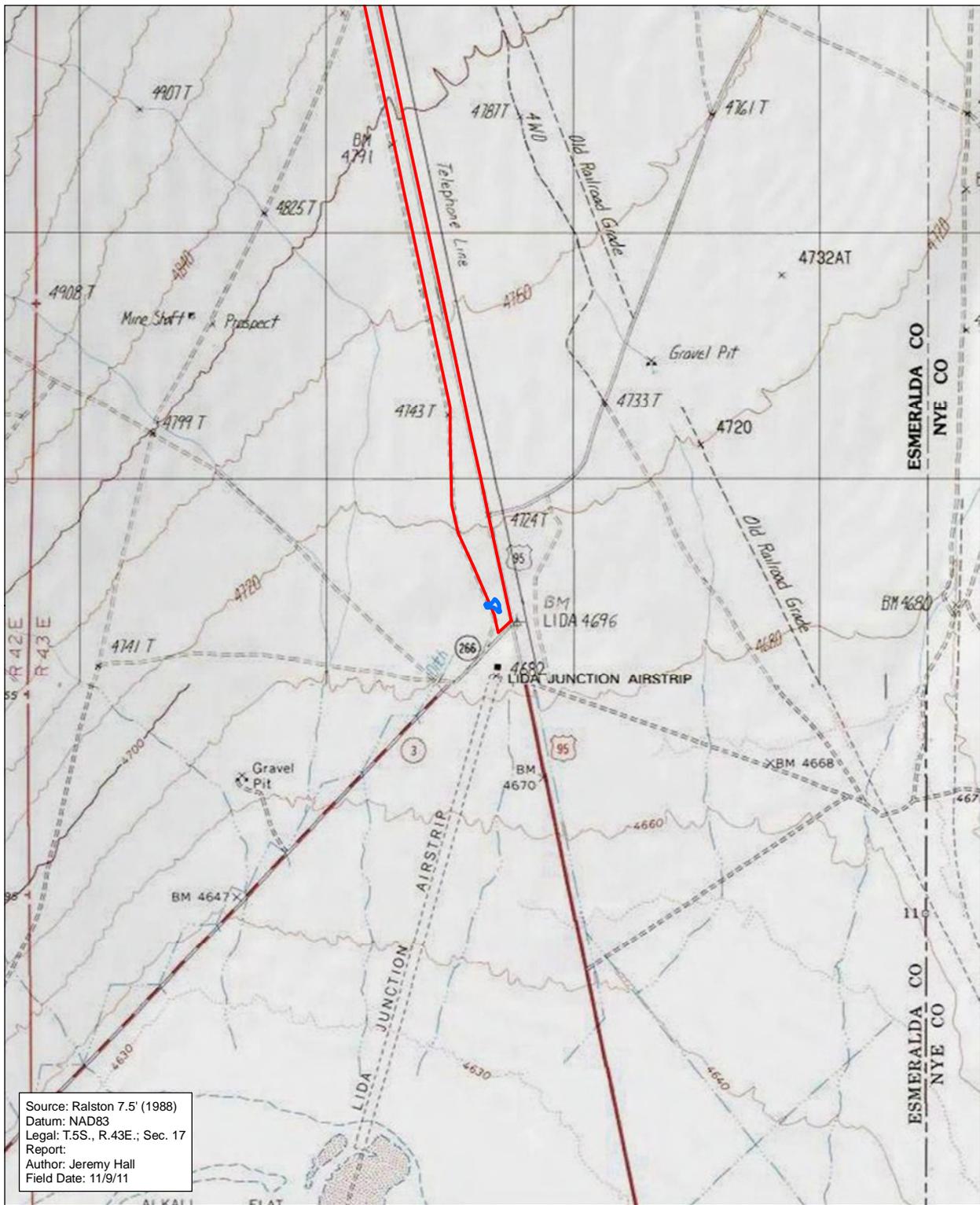
Map 1b. Project area (Scotty's Junction\_) and record search buffer.



Map 2a. Isolated artifacts (MP12 to Lida Junction).



Map 2b. Isolated artifacts (Scotty's Junction).



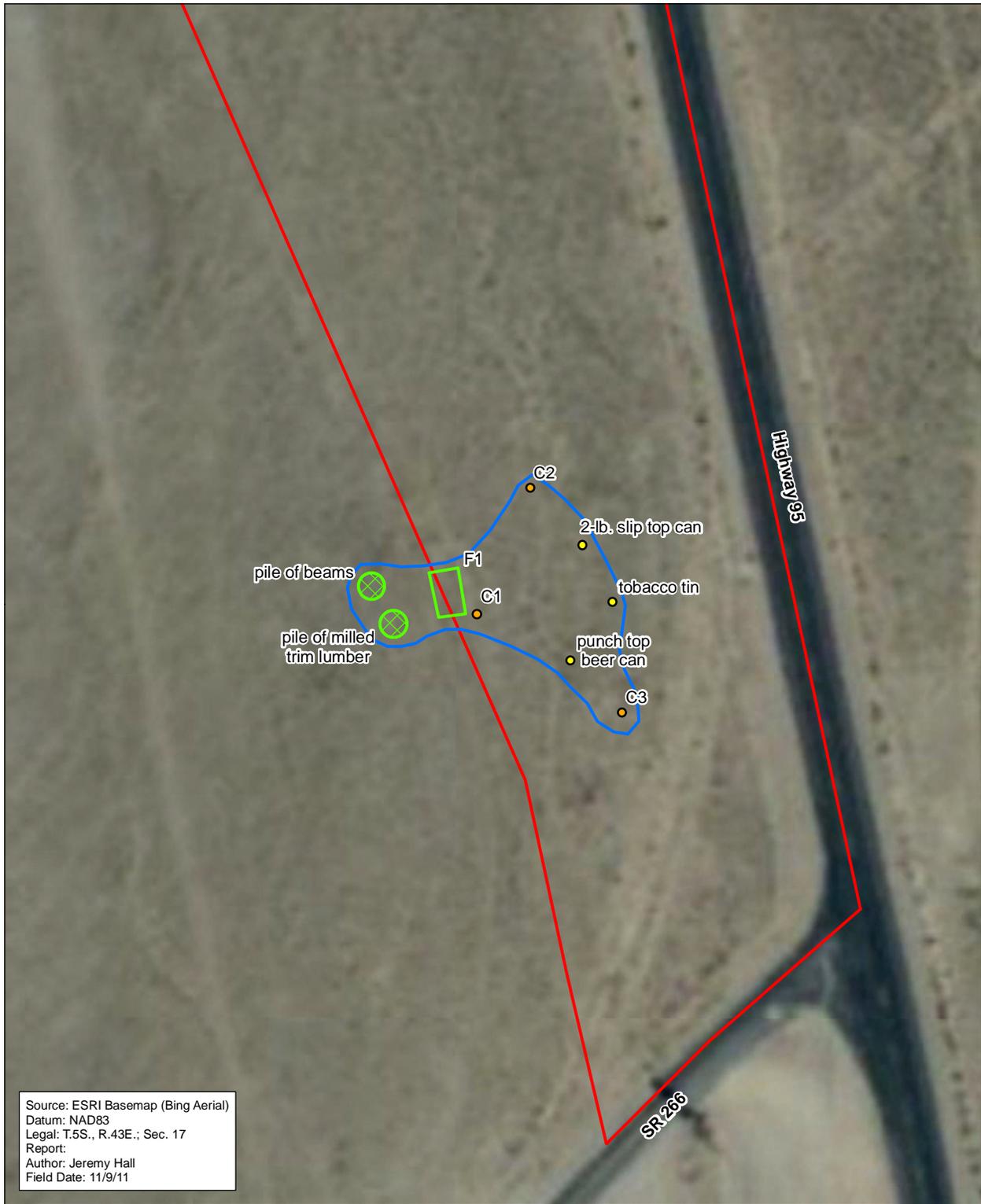
Source: Ralston 7.5' (1988)  
 Datum: NAD83  
 Legal: T.5S., R.43E.; Sec. 17  
 Report:  
 Author: Jeremy Hall  
 Field Date: 11/9/11

**Legend**

- Project Area
- Site Boundary



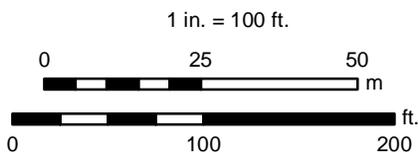
Map 3. GL3 site location.



Source: ESRI Basemap (Bing Aerial)  
 Datum: NAD83  
 Legal: T.5S., R.43E.; Sec. 17  
 Report:  
 Author: Jeremy Hall  
 Field Date: 11/9/11

**Legend**

- Project Area
- Boundary
- Feature
- Feature (~ location)
- Artifact
- Concentration



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Map 4. GL3 sketch map.

## **TABLES**

Table 1. Record search results of previously recorded sites.

<b>StateNum</b>	<b>AgcyNum</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>NR Status</b>	<b>Date Rec.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>RS Area</b>	<b>Comment</b>
ES1159	64-9384	Both	Not Eligible		Historic dump with flakes	Goldfield-MP12	
ES1399	64-14946	Both	Not Eligible		Refuse scatter and prehistoric isolate	Goldfield-MP12	
ES1400	64-14947	Historic	Not Eligible		Trash scatter	Goldfield-MP12	
ES1401	64-14948	Historic	Not Eligible		Refuse scatter	Goldfield-MP12	
ES591	54-4542	Prehistoric	Not Eligible	8/31/1982	Isolated biface	Project Area	East side of US95
ES592	54-4543	Historic	Not Evaluated	8/29/1992	trash dump	Project Area	East side of US95
ES593	54-4544	Prehistoric	Not Eligible	10/1/1982	Isolated point	Project Area	
ES594	54-4545	Prehistoric	Not Eligible	9/1/1982	Isolated flake	Project Area	
ES595	54-4546	Prehistoric	Not Eligible	9/1/1982	Isolated flake	Goldfield-MP12	East side of US95
ES596	54-4547	Prehistoric	No Info	9/1/1982	Three isolated artifacts	Goldfield-MP12	East side of US95
ES597	54-4548	Historic	Eligible	10/17/1979	Railroad grade	Goldfield-MP12	East side of US95
ES598	54-4549	Prehistoric	Not Eligible	9/2/1982	Isolated core	Goldfield-MP12	
ES600	54-4551	Prehistoric	No Info	9/2/1982	Lithic scatter	Goldfield-MP12	
ES602	54-4553	Prehistoric	No Info	9/2/1982	Lithic scatter	Goldfield-MP12	
ES710	64-4860	Prehistoric	Not Evaluated	12/16/1987	Assay area	Goldfield-MP12	

Table 2. Record search results of previous inventories.

<b>Agency Rpt</b>	<b>NSM Rpt</b>	<b>Other Rpt</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Project Area</b>
5-70	-	-	1970	Fowler, D.	Archaeological Excavation and Survey in Lincoln County, Nevada	Goldfield-Lida Jct.
5-1034	-	-	-	Martin, B.	Survey for Christmas Tree Pass Comm Site	Goldfield-Lida Jct.
6-1456-2	-	IMR 824	1984	Zeanah, D. and S. Stornetta	Addendum to Nevada Bell Fiber Optic Cable Burial Route, Tonopah to Goldfield	Goldfield-Lida Jct.
6-1456	-	IMR 733	1992	Stornetta, S.	Nevada Bell Buried Fiber Optic Cable between Specter Mtn. Repeater and Thorne	Goldfield-Lida Jct.
5-1032	-	-	1982	Moore, J.	Survey for US95 Betterment Near Goldfield	Goldfield-Lida Jct.
5-697	-	-	-	Rafferty, K.	Survey for Cottonwood/Lida Pipelines	Goldfield-Lida Jct.
6-1682	-	-	-	Williams, N.	Wellborn Sarcobatus Flats Sale	Scotty's Junction
6-1407	-	-	1991	Ross, D., and M. Waski	Landsale of Five Acres of Federal Land to Adjacent Landowner.	Scotty's Junction
-	-	NDOT21-82R	-	-	-	Goldfield-Lida Jct.
6-1084	-	NDOT ES045-87P	1987	Bunch, J.	US95 Esmeralda County Material Pits	Goldfield-Lida Jct.
-	18-215	-	1977	Waloff, Kurt	Cultural Resources Report: Historical and Archaeological: Paving and Widening of Sos-23(4), 70853, Off System Roads in Nye County, Unprogrammed: Off System Roads in Esmeralda County	Goldfield-Lida Jct.
-	-	NDOT69-84P	1984	-	-	Goldfield-Lida Jct.
-	-	NDOT-021-82R	-	-	-	Scotty's Junction
-	-	NDOT-069-84P	-	-	-	Scotty's Junction
6-2814	-	-	2010	Smith, B.	An Archaeological Assessment for the US95 Corridor from MP ES 11.996-ES32.880, Goldfield, Esmeralda County, Nevada	Goldfield-Lida Jct.
6-644	-	-	1984	Crabtree et al.	Jackson Fence	Goldfield-Lida Jct.

Table 2. Record search results of previous inventories.

<b>Agency Rpt</b>	<b>NSM Rpt</b>	<b>Other Rpt</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Project Area</b>
6-599	-	-	1984	-	US95 Betterment, Springdale to Tolicha Wash and Scotty's Junction to Gold Mtn. Rd., Esmeralda County	Scotty's Junction

Table 3. Isolated artifacts.

<b>IsoNum</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>
GL1	Historic	Soft top 7up can	482912	4154033
GL2	Historic	Oval flat fish can, knife-opened	482975	4153626
GL4	Prehistoric	Obsidian flake	496684	4126197
GL5	Prehistoric	Chert flake tool	496320	4126703
GL6	Historic	Oval flat fish can, knife-opened	497349	4125425

## **PHOTOS**



Project area overview from approximately Milepost 6, view south.



Isolated artifact GL1 - soft top 7up can.



Isolated artifact GL2 - oval flat fish can.



Site GL3-F1 overview, view north.



Site GL3-F1 overview, 3/4 view to the southwest.



Site GL3-F1 overview, 3/4 view to the southeast.



Site GL3-F1 detail view of sill beam.



Site GL3 - lumber piles on west side of fence.



Site GL3 - lumber piles on west side of fence.



Site GL3-C1, concentration of machine nails.



Site GL3-C2, small concentration of cans.



Site GL3-C3, concentration of deer-sized faunal remains.



Isolated artifact GL5 - chert flake tool.



Project area overview from approximately Milepost 12, view to the north.



Project area overview from approximately Milepost 12, view to the south.

**[BLM taking comment on telemedicine fiber optic line](#)**

Posted on 07 December 2011.

Pahrump Valley Times

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management has made available for public review and comment the Nevada Broadband Telemedicine Initiative Environmental Assessment EA .

The fiber optic cable project would connect, maintain and operate a statewide telemedicine network and would serve a minimum of 36 hospitals and medical facilities, with additional capacity available to serve public safety entities, educational institutions, and tribal governments.

The comment period will close January 4, 2012.

The EA analyzes the potential direct, indirect and cumulative effects to the human environment from constructing and maintaining new fiber optic cable between Reno and Las Vegas.

The new fiber optic cable on BLM-managed lands would include: approximately 15 miles of new buried cable between Goldfield and Lida Junction; 310 miles of new aerial fiber optic cable connected to existing transmission poles; and six miles of fiber optic cable in existing conduit.

The BLM has preliminarily determined that the proposal would not have significant effects on the human environment on BLM-managed lands, and has prepared a draft finding of no significant impact.

The project is being funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

The Nevada Hospital Association was awarded a \$19.6 million federal grant to build the fiber optic route.

Communities along Interstate 80 and Highway 50, like Elko and Ely, would also be connected by use of existing conduit.

Individuals can send written comments to the Carson City District Office, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, Nevada 89701 attention: Brian L. Buttazoni, or email comments to: [bbuttazoni@blm.gov](mailto:bbuttazoni@blm.gov). Comments can also be faxed to: 775 885-6147 attn: Brian L. Buttazoni.





# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
Lower Colorado Regional Office  
P.O. Box 61470  
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470



IN REPLY REFER TO:  
LC-2620  
ENV-6.00

NOV 07 2011

Ms. Laura M. Pettus  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Telecommunications and  
Information Administration  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room 2830B  
Washington, DC 20230

Subject: Statement of Cooperation for Bureau of Reclamation's Participation in the Preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for Nevada Hospital Association, Nevada Broadband Telemedicine Initiative (Project)

Dear Ms. Pettus:

Reclamation agrees to participate as a cooperating agency in the preparation of an EA for the Project. We are in agreement with the Statement of Cooperation you sent to Reclamation on October 25, 2011.

We understand that it has not been determined yet if the proposed fiber optic cable which crosses Reclamation administered land will be overhead on existing lines or buried. We will coordinate with Ms. Lynn Zonge, of Resource Concepts, to assure that resources on Reclamation land are addressed for either alternative.

Our point of contact for the EA is as follows:

Ms. Faye Streier  
NEPA Coordinator  
Bureau of Reclamation (LC-2620)  
P.O. Box 61470  
Boulder City, NV 89006  
702-293-8132  
fstreier@usbr.gov

We look forward to working with you as a cooperating agency on the Project. If you have questions, please contact Ms. Streier.

Sincerely,

Valerie E. Thomas, Chief  
Resources Management Office

cc: See next page.

cc: Mr. Bill Welch

Nevada Hospital Association  
5250 Neil Road, Suite 302  
Reno, NV 89502

Ms. Lynn Zonge  
Resource Concepts, Inc.  
340 North Minnesota Street  
Carson City, NV 89703-4152



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
National Telecommunications and  
Information Administration  
Washington, DC 20230

October 25, 2011

Ms. Valerie Thomas  
Chief, Resources Management Office  
Lower Colorado Region  
Bureau of Reclamation  
P.O. Box 61470 (LC-2620)  
Boulder City, Nevada 89006

Dear Ms. Thomas:

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has awarded a Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to the Nevada Hospital Association (NHA) to construct, maintain and operate a statewide telemedicine network that will serve a minimum of 37 hospitals, medical facilities, public safety entities, and educational institutions. NTIA, an operating unit of the Department of Commerce, is the lead federal agency responsible for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.) on this project.

Approximately 0.3 miles of the proposed project's route through Railroad Pass, between Las Vegas and Boulder City, will cross Federal lands administered by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) (See attached map). The proposed project in this area will involve the installation of overhead cable on existing poles. During recent discussions between NTIA and Reclamation, it was agreed that a formal Cooperating Agency Memorandum of Understanding is not needed for this project. This letter will serve as the guiding principles and agreement between NTIA and Reclamation as we cooperatively perform the NEPA review process.

As such, NTIA proposes the following Statement of Cooperation that will guide NTIA's interaction, as lead agency, with Reclamation in the review, siting and approval of NHA's Nevada Broadband Telemedicine Initiative:

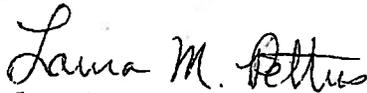
1. NTIA will keep Reclamation apprised of current events in relation to the proposed project.
2. NTIA will provide Reclamation three weeks to review and comment on the draft Environmental Assessment (EA). NTIA acknowledges this is a shorter than normal timeframe, but is necessary due to the tight construction schedule statutorily mandated by the ARRA.
3. NTIA will ensure that the EA adequately addresses all NEPA and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 U.S.C. § 470 et seq.) requirements, including taking Reclamation's comments into account on both the draft and final document to facilitate Reclamation's adoption of the EA pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 1506.3(c).
4. NTIA will ensure that the input from Reclamation is appropriately incorporated into the draft and final EA and will utilize Reclamation's comments to the maximum extent possible, consistent with legal requirements and our responsibilities as the lead agency.

5. As the lead Federal agency, NTIA will take the lead in discussions with the public, local governments, and regulatory agencies. NTIA will take the lead in NHPA Section 106 consultations, ESA Section 7 consultations and any other regulatory requirements. For those portions of the project related to Reclamation land and regulated resources, Reclamation will work as a partner with NTIA to provide technical information and participate in external discussions as needed.
6. Reclamation will assume, upon request of NTIA, responsibility for developing information and preparing environmental analyses including portions of the EA for which Reclamation has special expertise.
7. Reclamation will assist in the scoping, development of alternatives, environmental analysis, review of other agency comments, and the NEPA documentation process, as necessary, by providing information exclusively within Reclamation's control.
8. Reclamation will issue Rights-of-Entry for all studies on lands over which it has jurisdiction.

NTIA, through its grantee, (NHA), provided the draft EA to Reclamation in October 2011. It is anticipated that the EA will be completed before the end of the 2011 calendar year.

If you have any questions concerning the NEPA review or the Statement of Cooperation outlined in this letter, please contact Dr. Frank Monteferrante, NEPA Compliance Specialist at 202-482-4208 or [fmonteferrante@doc.gov](mailto:fmonteferrante@doc.gov). We look forward to working with you to complete the environmental review of this proposed project, expanding broadband service in the State of Nevada in a timely manner.

Sincerely,



Laura M. Pettus  
Senior Communications Program Specialist  
Office of Telecommunications and Applications

Attachment

cc: Bill Welch, NHA  
Heather Kydd, e-Care Nevada  
Lynn Zonge, Resource Concepts

**From:** Streier, Faye L [mailto:FStreier@usbr.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 21, 2011 11:04 AM  
**To:** Lynn Zonge  
**Cc:** Barrow, Brandon E; Maynard, Marc; Hicks, Patricia A  
**Subject:** Second Administrative Draft of Nevada Hospital EA

Lynn,

Attached is the second administrative draft of the Nevada Hospital EA with Reclamation comments on sticky notes. Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks for the opportunity to review.

Faye Streier  
Lower Colorado Region  
National Environmental Policy Act Coordinator  
Bureau of Reclamation  
PO Box 61470 (LC-2620)  
Boulder City, NV 89006

Office-702-293-8132  
Cell-702-379-5197  
Fax-702-293-8418  
fstreier@usbr.gov

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Faye Streier  
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fstreier@usbr.gov