



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Ely District Office
702 North Industrial Way, HC 33 Box 33500
Ely, NV 89301
http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely_field_office.html



In Reply Refer To:
9210 (NVL0044)

Dear Interested Public,

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing a change to the Stonehouse Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Habitat Improvement Project. The selected alternative within the decision, signed July 19, 2010, allowed mechanical pinyon and juniper removal on 16,660 to 19,000 acres of lands administered by the BLM within North Spring Valley. The proposed action is to add up to 2,500 acres of mowing and drill seeding treatments, up to 3 wildlife guzzlers and to change the implementation timing to July 15th through March 31st. All current proposals would be conducted within the previously analyzed project boundary. The project area is located in Townships 21 North, Range 66 East; Township 22 North, Range 65 East; Township 22 North, Range 66 East; Township 23 North, Range 65 East; Township 23 North, Range 66 East and Township 24 North, Range 65 East; Mount Diablo Meridian (MDM); White Pine County, Nevada (see enclosed map). The proposed project occurs on public lands managed by the BLM Ely District's Schell Field Office.

The objectives for the proposed action are to:

- Reduce late seral and decadent sagebrush stands within the treatment area, to recruit younger more vigorous sagebrush and increase the herbaceous understory.
- Provide additional water sources as deemed necessary through consultation with the Nevada Department of Wildlife to support and improve populations of big game and small game within North Spring Valley.
- Increase the amount of time available for project implementation to accommodate the availability of resources and environmental factors such as weather and soils conditions.

Enclosed are the Decision Record, Finding of No Significant Impact and the Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) that has been prepared to document that the proposed changes have been sufficiently analyzed in previous NEPA documents. A scoping letter was mailed on May 23rd, 2011 and posted to the Ely District BLM web site. Comments were requested by June 7th, 2011. Three comments were received during this period. Additional comments were received from the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Those comments and the responses to those comments are listed within the Decision and DNA. The Determination of NEPA Adequacy is posted on the Ely District web site:
http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely_field_office.html.

If you have any questions, please contact Matt Rajala, Fire Planner at (775) 289-1821.

Thank you for participating in the planning process for this project.

Sincerely,

/S/ Tye Petersen

Tye Petersen
Fire Management Officer
Ely District Office

Enclosures:

Stonehouse Sagebrush Habitat Improvement Project Decision Record
Stonehouse Sagebrush Habitat Improvement Project Finding of No Significant Impact
Stonehouse Sagebrush Habitat Improvement Project Determination of NEPA Adequacy