

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Carson City District Office

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION  
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

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**Project Lead:** Erik Pignata

**Field Office:** Sierra Front

**Lead Office:** Sierra Front

**Case File/Project Number:** NVN 091123

**Applicable Categorical Exclusion** (cite section): 516 DM 11.9 Appendix 4 – 152, Realty, E. #16.: “Acquisition of easements for an existing road or issuance of leases, permits, or rights-of-way for the use of existing facilities, improvements, or sites for the same or similar purposes.”

**NEPA Number:** DOI-BLM-NV-C020-2012-0054-CX

**Project Name:** Craig Wear Brunswick Canyon Road Land Use Permit (LUP)

**Project Description:**

Craig Wear has applied for a land use permit to allow the testing of non-pneumatic tires on an existing road traversing public land. The route that the applicant would like to use for this testing involves portions of both Brunswick Canyon road and Sunrise Pass road, as well as unnamed roads in the area. Their vehicle testing route is approximately 15 miles long (80,918 feet) on public land, with a width of travel of 12 feet. Two riders will ride five days a week year-round on all-terrain quads manufactured by Polaris (RZR 4 XPs), with the exception of down days for vehicle maintenance. It is estimated that the 15 mile route will be utilized twice per riding day (60 miles total for up and back travel). The primary focus of the proposed action is tire testing and evaluation given the desert terrain.

Utilization of the route would occur immediately after permit issuance. This proposed action would be authorized under a section 302 FLPMA land use permit, which allows for use of public land for three years with renewal at the discretion of the authorized officer. Land use permits are used to authorize actions which are expected to involve either little or no land improvement, construction, or investment.

Road damage and maintenance: Photo documentation will be used to compare high wear areas, especially sharp corners, to base line and previous week disturbance. When needed, maintenance and repair will be done with hand tools or larger equipment if necessary. If larger equipment is necessary, the applicant will contact the authorized officer prior to the activity. The permittee will be required to post a reclamation bond for this authorization. The monitoring plan as submitted is attached to this analysis.

A portion of the project area is located within Bi-state priority habitat. Coordination with NDOW was completed and no changes to the project were necessary.

**Applicant Name: Craig Wear**

**Project Location (include Township/Range, County):**

**Counties:** Douglas and Carson counties, Nevada

Mount Diablo Meridian

T. 14 N., R. 21 E.,  
sec. 4, NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>;  
sec. 9, SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>;  
sec. 16, SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, E<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>;  
sec. 21, NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, E<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, E<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>;  
sec. 25, NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, N<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>;  
sec. 26, N<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, N<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>;  
sec. 27, S<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, S<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, N<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>;  
sec. 28, SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, E<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, E<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>;  
sec. 33, NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>;  
sec. 34, NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>.

T. 14 N., R. 22 E.,  
sec. 17, NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>;  
sec. 18, E<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>;  
sec. 19, SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, N<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>;  
sec. 30, NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>.

T. 15 N., R. 20 E.,  
sec. 13, SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, S<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, N<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>;  
sec. 14, SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>;  
sec. 23, NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>.

T. 15 N., R. 21 E.,  
sec. 18, W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>;  
sec. 19, NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>;  
sec. 29, W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>;  
sec. 32, NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>;  
sec. 33, NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, E<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>;  
sec. 20, SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>;

The vehicle testing route lies within this legal description.

**BLM Acres for the Project Area:** Approximately 22.3 acres (22.29 acres, more or less)

**Land Use Plan Conformance** (cite reference/page number): LND-7, #6: "Exchanges and minor non-Bureau initiated realty proposals will be considered where analysis indicates they are beneficial to the public."

**Name of Plan:** Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan (2001)

Special Stipulation:

- a. The holder shall contact the BLM and obtain approval from the Authorized Officer before beginning any activity that is a substantial deviation from this grant or that will cause new surface disturbance.
- b. Permit modification may occur based on expected future BLM direction for the Bi-state sage-grouse.

**1:24,000 Quads:**

New Empire, 1997 Provincial Edition  
McTarnahan Hill, 1997 Provincial Edition  
Mineral Peak, 1997 Provincial Edition  
Mount Como, 1997 Provincial Edition

**Screening of Extraordinary Circumstances:** The following extraordinary circumstances apply to individual actions within categorical exclusions (43 CFR 46.215). The BLM has considered the following criteria:

<i>If any question is answered 'yes' an EA or EIS must be prepared.</i>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
1. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on public health or safety? (project lead/P&EC)		<b>X</b>
2. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (EO 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas? (wildlife biologist, hydrologist, outdoor recreation planner, archeologist)		<b>X</b>
3. Would the Proposed Action have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA 102(2)(E)]? (project lead/P&EC)		<b>X</b>
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? (project lead/P&EC)		<b>X</b>
5. Would the Proposed Action establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects? (project lead/P&EC)		<b>X</b>
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects? (project lead/P&EC)		<b>X</b>
7. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the NRHP as determined by the bureau or office? (archeologist)		<b>X</b>
8. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the list of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species? (wildlife biologist, botanist)		<b>X</b>
9. Would the Proposed Action violate federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment? (project lead/P&EC)		<b>X</b>
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)? (project lead/P&EC)		<b>X</b>
11. Would the Proposed Action limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007)? (archeologist)		<b>X</b>
12. Would the Proposed Action contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and EO 13112)? (botanist)		<b>X</b>

**SPECIALISTS' REVIEW:** During ID Team consideration of the above Proposed Action and extraordinary circumstances, the following specialists reviewed this CX:

**Realty Specialist:** Erik Pignata EP

**Outdoor Recreation Planner:** Arthur Callan AC

**Hydrologist:** Niki Cutler NC

**Archaeologist:** Jim Carter JC or Rachel Crews \_\_\_\_\_

**Wildlife Biologist:** Pilar Ziegler PZ

**Botanist:** Dean Tonenna DT

**Planning & Environmental Coordinator:** Brian Buttazoni BB

**Range Management Specialist:** Katrina Leavitt KL or Ryan Leary \_\_\_\_\_

**Wild Horse and Burro Specialist:** John Axtell JA

**Geologist:** Dan Erbes DE for Dan

**Forester:** Coreen Francis CF

**CONCLUSION:** Based upon the review of this Proposed Action, I have determined that the above-described project is a categorical exclusion, in conformance with the LUP, and does not require an EA or EIS.

Approved by:

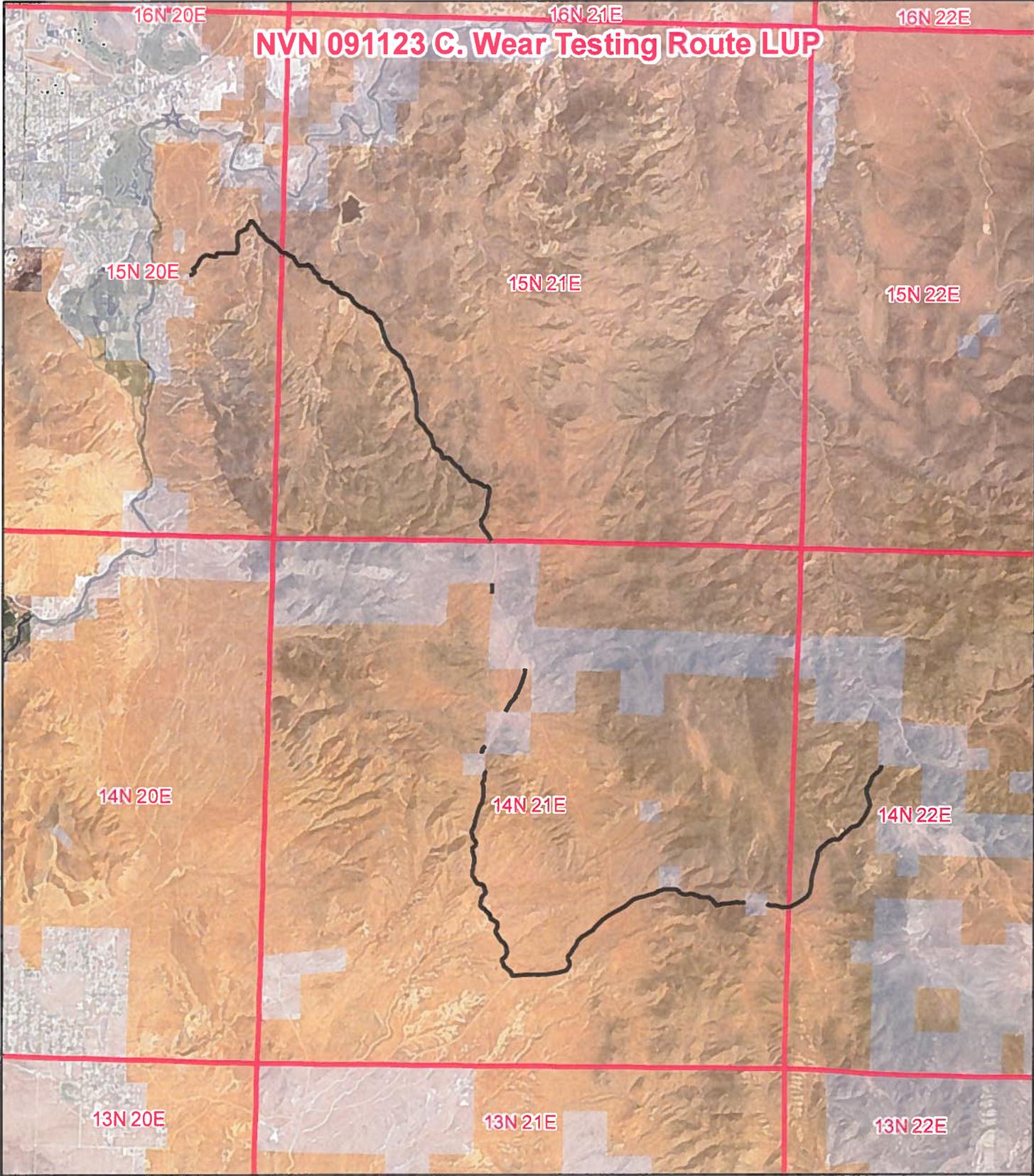


\_\_\_\_\_  
Leon Thomas  
Field Manager  
Sierra Front Field Office

9-27-12

(date)

# NVN 091123 C. Wear Testing Route LUP



0 0.250.5 1  
 Miles

Exhibit B Project Map



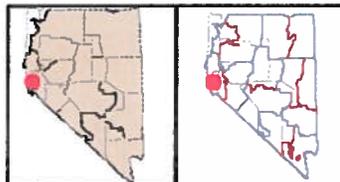
United States Department of the Interior  
 Bureau of Land Management  
 Carson City District Office  
 5665 Morgan Mill Rd.  
 Carson City, NV 89701  
 (775) 885-6000

Map Produced by: Erik Pignata 7/25/2012  
 Revised 8/17/2012

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

**Legend**

	Vehicle Testing Route		Private
	Township		Water
	Bureau of Land Management		



# NVN 091123 C. Wear Testing Route LUP

16N 22E

15N 20E

15N 21E

15N 22E

14N 20E

14N 21E

14N 22E

13N 20E

13N 21E

13N 22E

Carson City District Office

0 0.250.5 1 Miles

### Exhibit B Project Map w/ Sections

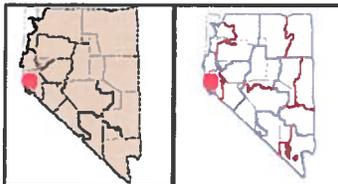


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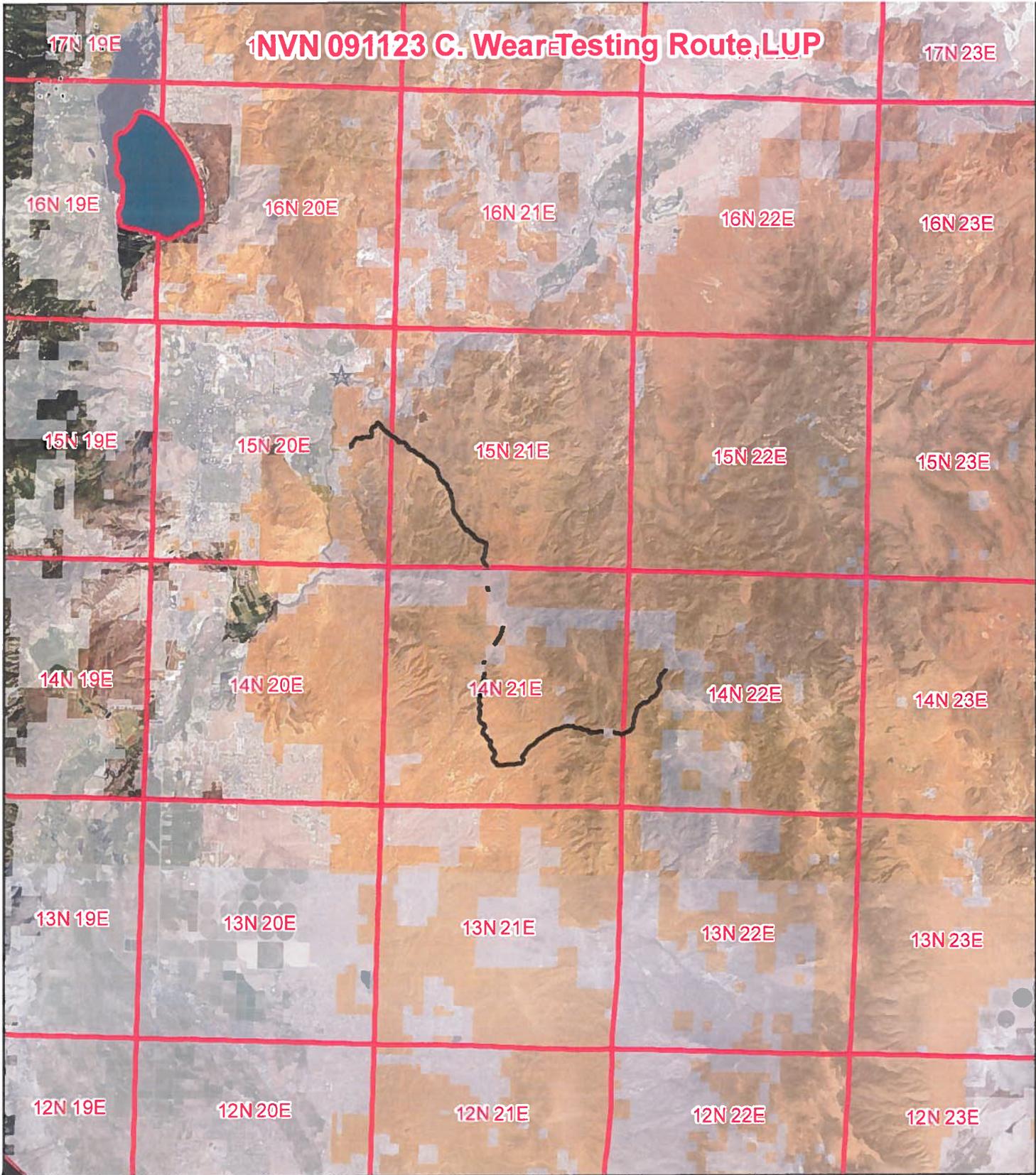
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	Vehicle Testing Route		Bureau of Land Management
	Township		Private
	Section		Water



# NVN 091123 C. Wear Testing Route, LUP



Carson City District Office



Overview Map



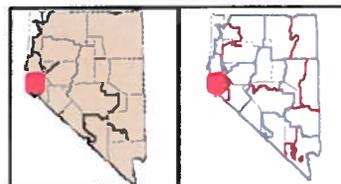
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**Legend**

	Vehicle Testing Route		Private
	Township		Water
	Bureau of Land Management		



# Trail Damage & Maintenance

1. Craig will take pictures along this trail on his first ride.
2. Craig will take pictures at the end of each week of the high wear areas documenting what has changed since the previous week.
3. If trail maintenance from our ATV use is needed, Craig & David will fill in areas with hand tools or bring in larger equipment if needed.

8/29/2012

Application #NVN091123

Addendum to the Trail Damage and Maintenance Plan.

1. Safety is our primary goal. The speeds while testing ATV/UTV's typically are slow 10 to 25 MPH, never faster than conditions will safely allow. Resilient Technologies focus in Nevada is durability testing of NPT's, slower speeds over rocky terrain. If conditions on route are too wet, leaving wheel ruts etc. the testing will be suspended until conditions improve.
2. If repairs are needed to correct a damaged segment of the route, a map will be supplied if required and pictures will be taken before and after repairs are completed.
3. Should heavy equipment be required to fix a route segment the authorizing officer at Sierra Front Field Office will be contacted about repairs! A map will be furnished if required and pictures will be taken before and after route repairs are completed.
4. Estimated costs to rehabilitate a 300x12 foot segment of route using heavy equipment per bid with F&B Inc. \$45.00 for equipment and \$500.00 move in/out fee for a total of \$545.00.