



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carson City District
5665 Morgan Mill Road
Carson City, Nevada 89701-1448
http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field.html

In Reply Refer To:
4100/4700 (LLNVC0000)

MAR 12 2013

Dear Interested Public:

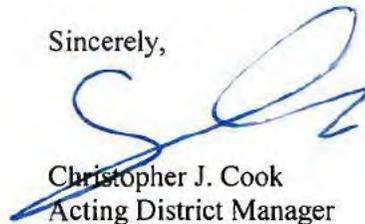
The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Carson City District is seeking public input on an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the District Drought Management Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA can be viewed on the BLM Carson City District website at: http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field/blm_information/nepa.html. Hard copies of the document can be obtained by contacting the Carson City District BLM at the letterhead address above. The EA will be available for a 30-day public comment period beginning March 12, 2013, and closing April 12, 2013. Written comments on this EA will be accepted at the above address ATTN: Angelica Rose or via email to: CCDODroughtEA@blm.gov until 4:30 p.m., April 12, 2013.

According to the US Drought Monitor, as of January 1, over 60 percent of the state is in severe or extreme drought conditions. While recent rain and snow events have slightly improved conditions in a few areas, the entire state remains abnormally dry. On February 27, 2013, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) designated three counties and an independent city in Nevada as primary natural disaster areas due to damages and losses caused by the recent drought. The counties are: Douglas, Esmeralda, and White Pine and the Independent city of Carson City. Farmers and ranchers in the following counties in Nevada also qualify for natural disaster assistance because their counties are contiguous. Those counties are: Elko, Lincoln, Mineral, Storey, Eureka, Lyon, Nye, and Washoe. Farmers and ranchers in the following counties in California also qualify for natural disaster assistance because their counties are contiguous. Those counties are: Alpine, El Dorado, Inyo, Mono, and Placer. Additional information is also available online at www.fsa.usda.gov.

The BLM has placed a high priority on drought monitoring and developing appropriate responses to the varied conditions across public lands. The Drought Management EA was prepared to analyze a range of drought response alternatives that would be used to mitigate the effects of drought and to address emergency situations. These include, but are not limited to the following actions: partial or complete closure of an allotment(s); partial reduction in animal unit months; change in season of use; reduced grazing duration; change in livestock management practices; temporary fencing of critical areas; targeted grazing of communities dominated by invasive annuals; temporary change in kind or class of livestock; temporary water hauls; temporary closures to Off Highway Vehicles, and wild horse and burro removals. This EA will allow the BLM to quickly respond to drought conditions; thereby, ensuring the long-term health and sustainability of public lands within the Carson City District.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this EA, please contact Angelica Rose, Planning and Environmental Coordinator at (775) 885-6000, or at the above address.

Sincerely,



Christopher J. Cook
Acting District Manager