

Environmental Assessment

Sunrise Landfill Boundary Adjustment

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Chapter 1. Purpose of and Need for Action

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1.1. Identifying Information:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to convey title to the Sunrise Landfill (The Site) totaling approximately 821 acres, in Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada, by non-competitive direct sale to Clark County. The direct sale is proposed because of Clark County's obligations to perform "Work" under a Consent Decree and Settlement Agreement dated July 2008, for the closure and long-term maintenance of the Sunrise Landfill. Section XII of the Consent Decree states ". . . the County and BLM shall undertake efforts to ensure that Sunrise Landfill shall be transferred from the United States to Clark County in the most cost-effective and expeditious manner."

1.1.1. Title, EA number, and type of project:

Sunrise Boundary Adjustment and RMP Amendment

DOI-BLM-NV-S010-2012-0018-EA

1.1.2. Location of Proposed Action:

The site is located approximately 3 miles east of Las Vegas at the termination of Vegas Valley Drive, in Clark County, Nevada on the eastern edge of Las Vegas Valley, immediately southwest of Frenchman Mountain. The Site includes the closed Sunrise Landfill, a parcel of land that is leased to Clark County, Nevada by the Bureau of Land Management; and three adjacent parcels known as the Northeast Canyon Area, the Eastern Perimeter Area, and the Western Burn Pit Area. The northernmost portion of The Site is located within the canyon directly east of Frenchman Mountain. However, the majority of The Site is located on a large alluvial fan that originates at the mouth of the canyon and spreads out south into the adjacent valley. Elevation on the Site ranges from 1,900 to 2,275 feet above mean sea level. The Site is situated within the following Public Land Survey System descriptions:

Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada

T. 20 S., R. 62 E.,

sec. 36, lots 30 and 31.

T. 21 S., R. 62 E.,

sec. 1, lots 13, 20, 25, 32, 34, 36, 37, 39 and 41;

sec. 12, lots 1, 2, 3, 6 to 16, inclusive, and 23.

T. 21 S., R. 63 E.,

sec. 6, lots 3, 5, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, SE¹/₄NW¹/₄NW¹/₄, NW¹/₄SE¹/₄SW¹/₄SW¹/₄,

SW¹/₄ NW¹/₄SE¹/₄NW¹/₄, NW¹/₄NE¹/₄NW¹/₄SW¹/₄, SW¹/₄NE¹/₄NW¹/₄SW¹/₄,

NW¹/₄SE¹/₄NW¹/₄SW¹/₄, SW¹/₄SE¹/₄NW¹/₄SW¹/₄, NW¹/₄ NE¹/₄SW¹/₄SW¹/₄, SW¹/₄NE¹/₄SW¹/₄SW¹/₄.

The area described contains 821.00 acres, more or less, in Clark County, Nevada.

1.1.3. Name and Location of Preparing Office:

Lead Office - Las Vegas FO S010

1.1.4. Identify the subject function code, lease, serial, or case file number:

Case File Number: N-090449

1.2. Purpose of and Need for Action:

1.2.1 Background

The BLM is proposing to dispose of an area on the east side of the Las Vegas Valley, the Sunrise Landfill area. Since this action is not included in the current Resource Management Plan (RMP), the RMP will be amended in order to include the landfill area.

The Sunrise Landfill was used as a municipal landfill from the 1950's to 1993. Initial closure activities were completed in 1995. In 1998, a high intensity rainfall event damaged the landfill cover. In 1999 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ordered evaluation of the site. In 2008, Clark County and BLM entered into a Consent Decree and Settlement Agreement in the United States District Court (Civil Action No. 2:08-cv-01024). Section XII of the Consent Decree states the County and BLM will undertake efforts to ensure that Sunrise Landfill shall be transferred from the United States to the County in the most cost-effective and expeditious manner.

1.2.2 Purpose

The purpose of the boundary adjustment is to designate the Sunrise Landfill as disposable in order to convey title of land to Clark County.

1.2.3 Need

The need for this analysis is to comply with Sections 203 and 209 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), as amended (43 U.S.C. 1713 and 1719), and sales, mineral conveyance regulations at 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 2710, 2711, and 2720, and the 2008 Consent Decree and Settlement Agreement (Civil Action No. 2:08-cv-01024)

1.3. Scoping, Public Involvement and Issues:

Internal scoping with the Southern Nevada District Office (SNDO) Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) occurred on November 2, 2011. No issues were identified during the internal scoping meeting.

Chapter 2. Proposed Action and Alternatives

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2.1. Description of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is to adjust the boundaries for the RMP disposal boundary to include the Sunrise Landfill and amend the 1998 Las Vegas Resource Management Plan to reflect these adjustments.

2.2. Description of Alternatives Analyzed in Detail:

Alternative 1 - the No Action alternative - would not adjust the Sunrise Landfill, and the Las Vegas RMP will not be amended.

Alternative 2 - the proposed action alternative - will adjust the boundaries of the RMP disposal boundaries to include the Sunrise Landfill. This alternative will also amend the 1998 RMP. Under this alternative, the BLM will designate the Sunrise Landfill as a disposal area in order convey title to Clark County as stated in the Consent Decree.

2.3. Alternatives Considered but not Analyzed in Detail

No other alternatives were considered for analysis since they would not meet the purpose and need of the proposed action.

2.4. Conformance

The EA is in conformance with the 1998 Las Vegas Resource Management Plan for designating lands for disposal (Management Objective LD-1-a for the landfill). The RMP will be amended in order to include the landfill area.

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Chapter 3. Affected Environment:

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The following table shows those resources that may or may not be present in the project area. Those resources listed as “Not Present” or “Present/Not Affected” will not be analyzed further in this EA. Any resources shown as “Present/May be Affected” will be analyzed in detail.

Supplemental Authority	Not Present	Present/Not Affected	Present/May be Affected	Rationale
Air Quality		X		No Issues
Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)		X		The Rainbow Gardens ACEC is adjacent to the project area, but conveyance of the landfill property will impact the ACEC.
Cultural/Historical	X			This is an administrative action not subject to Section 106 review. (Appendix C.6 of the State Protocol Agreement with the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office). If adjusting the boundaries opens the land to discretionary land laws then each discretionary action would be subject to Section 106 review.
Environmental Justice		X		Rainbow Gardens ACEC has been used as a homeless camp, however the BLM proposed action will not directly impact the current use.
Farmlands Prime or Unique	X			
Greenhouse Gases		X		Currently there are no emission limits for suspected Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, and no technically defensible methodology for predicting potential climate changes from GHG emissions. However, there are, and will continue to be, several efforts to address GHG emissions from federal activities, including BLM authorized uses.
Noxious Weeds/ Invasive Non-native Species		X		Action may impact weed potential due to ground disturbance or lack of control action by new land owners.
Native American Religious Concerns	X			No new disturbance is proposed.
Floodplains		X		Will be analyzed in Section 3.1
Geology / Mineral Resources/Energy Production	X			No issues, although the East (Community) Pit is removed from inside the ACEC it will still remain inside the disposal boundary and made available for development if the lands are sold. The disposal of the lands within the pit will not impact the transfer of the landfill to the county.
Migratory Birds		X		No impact to migratory birds since the habitat of the property will not change with conveyance.
Recreation	X			This project will not change current recreation uses in this area.
Riparian/Wetlands		X		No impact to riparian areas or wetlands since the action is conveyance to another agency.

Soils		X		No impact to soils since the action is conveyance to another agency.
Socioeconomic		X		This project will not disproportionately impact social or economic values.
Threatened, Endangered Species.	X			
Vegetation Excluding Federally Listed Species		X		No impact to Vegetation since the action is conveyance to another agency.
Waste –Hazardous/Solid		X		Conveyance of the Sunrise Landfill will remove a waste site from BLM lands.
Water Quality		X		No impact to water quality since the action is conveyance to another agency.
Wild Horse & Burro	X			Not Present
Wild & Scenic Rivers	X			Not Present
Wilderness		X		The proposed action is not located within or adjacent to designated Wilderness. The proposed action is located adjacent to the Sunrise Mountain ISA which is managed according to the non-impairment standard. The action will not result in surface disturbance necessitating restoration. No issues.
Forests and Rangelands		X		Cactus and yucca are regulated under the BLM forestry program. The area contains low densities of cactus and yucca. Impacts for forestry products would be negligible.
Human Health and Safety.		X		Human health and safety issues will remain the same regardless of ownership.

No resources will be affected since the action is administrative in nature, therefore no further resource analysis will be needed. No change to current management will occur, the property will continue to be managed as a closed landfill. The closure of the landfill will protect the resources within the conveyance boundary.

Chapter 4. Environmental Effects:

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No impacts to resources will occur since the action is administrative in nature.

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Chapter 5. Tribes, Individuals, Organizations, or Agencies Consulted:

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No Indian tribes were consulted since the action a change of ownership, not a change of resource use.

Table 5.1. List of Persons, Agencies and Organizations Consulted

Name	Purpose & Authorities for Consultation or Coordination
Lew Wallenmayer	Clark County, Nevada

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Chapter 6. List of Preparers

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Table 6.1. List of Preparers

Name	Title	Responsible for the Following Section(s) of this Document
Lisa Christianson	Air Resources Specialist	Air Resources, Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Fred Edwards	Botanist/Range Conservationist/Forester	Livestock Grazing, Rangeland Health Standards, Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species, Woodland / Forestry, Vegetation Excluding Federally Listed Species
John Evans	Planning & Environmental Coordinator	Project Manager, Environmental Justice, Socio-Economics
Sendi Kalcic	Wilderness Planner	Wilderness/WSA, BLM Natural Areas, Areas with Wilderness Characteristics
Katherine Kleinick	Natural Resource Specialist	Vegetation Excluding Federally Listed Species
Sean McEldery	Fire Management Specialist	Fuels/Fire Management, Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds
Mike Moran	Hazardous Materials Coordinator	Wastes (hazardous or solid)
Marilyn Peterson	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wild and Scenic Rivers
Jill Pickren	Realty Specialist	Lands/Access
Boris Poff	Hydrologist/Soil Scientist	Floodplains, Hydrologic Conditions, Soils, Water Resources/Quality (drinking/surface/ground), Wetlands/Riparian Zones
Susanne Rowe	Archeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns, Paleontology
George Varhalmi	Geologist	Geology / Mineral Resources/Energy Production