

**Overland Pass Habitat Improvement Project
Preliminary Environmental Assessment Public Comment Matrix**

Name	Agency or Affiliation	Comment	Response
Katie Fite	Western Watersheds Project	Request to enter Western Watersheds Project's appeal, statement of standing and request for stay for Huntington and Newark Watershed Implementation and Restoration Plan in the project record.	Documents filed in project record; decision for Newark and Huntington Watersheds Implementation and Restoration Plan was rescinded.
		Request to enter letter from Western Watersheds Project to USFWS Mountain Prairie Region regarding past, present and future actions within BLM Ely District.	No specific comments in the attached letter address the Overland Pass Project. However, the cumulative impact section includes past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions within the BLM Ely District.
		Soon, there will be nothing left of this part of Nevada but huge mine pits, dried up spring and streams, and weedlands.	Sections 3 & 4 of the EA describes potential impacts to springs, streams and weeds. The purpose and need of the project is to improve ecosystem resistance and resilience to threats such as weeds.
		The entire landscape will be primed for frequent fires to flash across it as the hacked, mowed, burned and herbicided sage and trees are converted by the combined effects of radical treatment disturbance and grazing to annual grasslands.	Treatments are proposed on a portion of the landscape. Design features are included in the proposed action to reduce impacts to vegetation and reduce establishment of annual species.
		Are the agencies trying to eradicate the sage-grouse, pygmy rabbits, pinyon jay, ferruginous hawk and other wildlife so the huge gold mines and now Oil and Gas can have unfettered access to every acre they want?	The project is designed to improve habitat for various wildlife species including sage-grouse. Design features are included in the proposed action to minimize impacts to pygmy rabbits, pinyon jay and ferruginous hawks. Access for gold mines and oil and gas utilization is not within the scope of this project.
		Agencies must prepare an EIS to assess all adverse direct, indirect and cumulative effects of their massive and massively expensive "treatments" - especially the fact that what is claimed on paper is often wildly exceeded on the ground - causing long-term and irreparable harm - i.e. waste and destruction of old growth vegetation and/or vegetation with very important habitat values. Much more stringent mitigation, monitoring and oversight is	Cumulative effects are described in Section 4 of the EA. The EA is also tiered to EISs that describe effects of actions similar to those described in the EA. Design features are included in the project to reduce long term effects and removal of old growth trees. Implementation will follow design features described in the EA. An EIS will be

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Katie Fite	Western Watersheds Project	necessary. There must also be accountability - and significant consequences for any deviations from what is claimed on paper, but wantonly violated in implementation.	prepared if the levels of impacts reach the level of significance as described in 40 CFR 1508.27.
		Request to enter several documents in the record for this EA: 1) link to page for Corral Allotment project; 2) articles from Wildlife News (<i>The Cowboy Plan to Save Sage Grouse..... Making Things Worse</i> and <i>Western Watersheds Project Litigates 145,000 Acre Vegetation Treatment Project in Nevada</i>).	Documents were entered into the record as requested.