

**Worksheet**  
**Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)**  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

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OFFICE: Winnemucca District Office

TRACKING NUMBER: DOI-BLM-NV-W010-2013-0035-DNA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: STA-23

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: Rye Patch Fire Station / Administrative Facility

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Rye Patch, NV: T.30 N, R.33 E, sec.16,  
W2SWSWNE

APPLICANT (if any): BLM

**A. Description of the Proposed Action with attached map(s) and any applicable mitigation measures.**

**Proposed Action:**

The BLM has petitioned the Nevada Department of Transportation to relinquish the proposed fire station location (5 -8 acres) from their current Materials Site Right-of-Way (R/W) Case # NEV 056627.

The BLM requests a right-of-way for the construction of a BLM fire station on public lands located within T.30N., R.33E., MDM, section 16, W2SWSWNE within the county of Pershing, Nevada (see location maps attached). The proposed action encompasses 5 acres within the 160 acre parcel in public ownership described above. The location would be adjacent to the intersection of Stampede Rd. and Pyramid Lake Rd. in Rye Patch. The BLM would obtain an easement to use Stampede Trail, a private road within the Humboldt River Ranch Estates in Rye Patch, to access the proposed fire station site from the west. Approximately 2.5 acres would be needed to enclose a crew barracks, an office, covered or enclosed engine bays with shop area, and associated infrastructure / utilities to include; a well, well house, septic tank and leach field, buried or overhead electrical and phone lines, propane storage tank(s) 250 – 500 gallons, concrete pads in front of shop and engine bays, concrete walkways, paved or graveled drive and parking, lighting, landscaping and perimeter fencing. An additional 2.5 acres would be reserved and fenced for future expansion of facilities. Currently proposed within this 2.5 acres are additional bays and storage. A helipad is desired in the future which would require a separate evaluation under NEPA when proposed for implementation. No antennae towers are proposed.

The station would be occupied on a seasonal basis (usually May – Sep), as needed, housing a minimum of 2 BLM wildland fire engines, a Battalion Chief with command vehicle and up to 8-10 firefighters.

The project implementation would likely be phased over 3-5 years. Heavy equipment would likely need to be used for site preparation. Short-term facilities may be employed until the permanent facilities are built. Construction would take place during any time of the year, weather permitting. The right-of-way would encumber 5 -8 acres and be issued in perpetuity pending any future administrative withdrawal of the site by the BLM.

Table 1: Rights-of-way, Permits and Easements associated with the Proposed Facility

| Purpose:                                     | Type:    | Issued to: | Description:  | Acres: |
|--|----------|------------|---|--------|
| Surface Protection                           | ROW      | BLM        | T.30 N, R.33 E, sec.16, W2SWSWNE  | 5      |
| Residential Well                             | Permit   | BLM        | Spec. platform and well head – constructed in conformance with NV Water Law | .0004  |
| Buried or Overhead Power Line*               | ROW      | NV Energy  | 20' wide x 400'   | .184   |
| Buried phone line / fiber or overhead phone* | ROW      | AT&T       | 20' wide x 450'   | .21    |
| Access to the site                           | Easement | BLM        | Stampede Trail - 60' wide x 2,640'  | 3.64   |

\*Final engineering studies will determine buried or overhead option

**Mitigation Measures / Design Features:**

In order to minimize any potential effects to resources, an existing disturbed area was chosen for the site. Existing disturbance (part of NDOW Gravel Pit) and access to residential power was the basis for site location. The site chosen has a low potential for encountering cultural resources.

**Cultural Resources:** Respect for all cultural resources would be maintained. Any BLM personnel or contractors working on all aspects of the project would be informed about the need to protect cultural resources and the penalties involved in the collection or deliberate destruction of historic and prehistoric artifacts and features. Any cultural resource discovered on public or private lands that are part of the federal undertaking by any employee, contractor, sub-contractors or any person working on their behalf would be left in place and immediately reported to the BLM. In the case of human remains that might be inadvertently discovered in the process of conducting the proposed project, all appropriate Federal laws would be followed. If discovered human remains were encountered, construction near the location of the finds would be halted and consultation with Native American tribes in the area would be initiated. The contractor would suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery of human remains or cultural resources until written authorization to proceed were issued by the BLM. An evaluation

of the discovery would be made by the BLM to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural values.

**Invasive Species:** All construction vehicles would be required to be fully washed, including the undercarriages, prior to entry into the project area to remove seeds of undesirable plants. The station site would be inspected on a regular basis for the presence of noxious weeds and/or invasive non-native species. Approved control and eradication methods would be used if any are found.

**Soils:** Suitable topsoil removed in conjunction with clearing and stripping would be conserved in stockpiles at appropriate locations within the right-of-way reservation. Topsoil would be uniformly spread over unoccupied disturbed areas, particularly in areas of landscaping.

**Air Quality:** During all phases of road construction a water truck would be on site to mitigate and reduce fugitive dust.

**Wildlife – Migratory Birds:** For any proposed actions that are not performed outside of the migratory bird breeding season (March 1 — August 31), a migratory bird nesting survey would be conducted in potential habitat areas no more than 10 days and no less than 3 days prior to initiation of disturbance. If active nests are located, a minimum 260 ft. protective buffer will be established or activities delayed until the birds have completed nesting and brood-rearing activities.

**Visual Resources:** Building materials and colors would be considered for permanent structures that would be compatible with the surrounding environment. Construction of all facilities would utilize screening on proposed stationary lights and light plants. Lighting would be directed onto the pertinent site only and away from adjacent areas not in use. Safety and proper lighting of the active work areas would be the primary goal. Lighting fixtures would be hooded and shielded as appropriate. Light pollution would be minimized by utilizing “Dark Sky” practices.

**Exterior Design Considerations:** Exterior design considerations would include screening of the warehouse-storage yard area with fence materials that reduce visibility; use of natural surfaces for parking areas and driveways. Xeriscape landscaping would be incorporated into the station’s landscaping with native shrubs and herbaceous vegetation.

**Green Building Technologies:** The project is required to be Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) certified and meet the requirements of Executive Order 13423, January 24, 2007, which stipulated that Federal buildings shall exceed the requirements of ASHRAE 90.1 by 30%. This is also in keeping with BLM directives that energy conservation and sustainable design be incorporated into all new buildings.

**Hazardous Materials:** Sewage from the facility would be disposed of onsite using a septic tank – leach system designed and operated to meet current health, safety, and environmental regulations. Periodically, solid wastes from the septic tank would be

removed and disposed of at an approved treatment facility. Spill kits would be maintained onsite to provide prompt response to accidental leaks or spills of chemicals and petroleum products. Bulk fuel storage and vehicle maintenance activities (i.e., oil changes) would not be conducted at the facility. Secondary containment structures would be provided for all chemical and petroleum/oil storage areas during construction and operation of the facility.

## **B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance**

LUP Name\*\_Sonoma – Gerlach MFP

Date Approved: 1982

\*List applicable LUPs (for example, resource management plans; activity, project, management, or program plans; or applicable amendments thereto)

The proposed action in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for the following LUP decisions:

The proposed action in is conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objective, terms, and conditions):

**OBJECTIVE:** To minimize wildfire damage to life, property and resources  
District Manager’s Decision F 1.1 – In the development of the District Fire Management Plan, the following areas will be considered for priority protection after evaluation: (68 areas listed in MFP) over 20% of these areas are directly related to the vicinity of the proposed location which include:

- Seven Troughs Mining Town and District
- Rabbit Hole Mining Town and District
- Poker Brown
- Rye Patch Dam
- Imlay Halfway House
- Lovelock Cave
- Unionville
- Critical Wildlife Habitat Areas
- Dun Glen
- Rochester
- Limerick
- Cottonwood Canyon
- Seven Troughs Area
- Sage grouse Areas and Strutting Grounds

District Manager's Decision F-1.2 – Improve legal access into fire prevention problem areas and fire problem Class IV and V areas as Defined in the Nevada Normal Fire Year Plan. The lands adjacent to the railroads and I-80 from the Humboldt County line northwest to Golconda and from Winnemucca southwest to Rye Patch are within fire prevention problem areas. This is a land area bounded by Winnemucca on the north, the Sonoma Range on the east, the Humboldt River on the west, and the Pershing County Line on the South is designated as a fire problem class IV area. A second Class IV area is located in the Rye Patch – Mill City – Rye Patch reservoir area. Legal access should be also be improved as needed.

**C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.**

Black Rock NCA Administrative Facility Environmental Assessment  
(DOI-BLM-W030-2010-002-EA) Dec. 2009. FONSI 12/31/09, DR 12/31/09

Midas Fire Station Environmental Assessment  
(BLM/EK/PL-2002/016) March, 2002. FONSI 4/9/2002, DR 4/9/2002

McDermitt Fire Station Environmental Assessment  
(NV-020-EA-90-31) Aug. 1990. FONSI 8/23/1990, DR 8/23/1990

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, and monitoring report).

**D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria**

**1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA documents(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?**

Yes. The Proposed Action is essentially similar to the Black Rock Administrative Facility and the Midas Fire Station, having the same or similar features in design, layout, footprint, and utilities. The Proposed Action is within sufficiently similar geographic areas (Basin and Range – valley-bench location – elevation within 300' difference) and similar resource conditions previously analyzed in the 2009 Black Rock Admin Facility EA. There are no potentially substantial differences between the current proposal and the alternatives analyzed in either EA.

**2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA documents(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?**

Yes. Both EA's examined an appropriate range of alternatives including the no action alternative. In this case, the Rye Patch Fire Station proposal intends to utilize public land within existing disturbance on the fringe of a gravel pit, permitted for the construction of I-80. Interests are similar in that the public largely supports a wildland fire station in proximity to resource values to include the Wildland-urban Interface. The Black Rock Admin Site has provisions for hosting wildland fire resources as well.

**3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?**

Yes. At the present time, there is no new information or changed circumstances that would substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action. This proposed action is sensitive to greater sage grouse concerns as its footprint will not affect critical habitats such as PPH or PGH. It will however aid in the protection of critical habitats by shortening response times to these areas, increasing the percentage of fires controlled during initial attack.

**4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?**

Yes. At the present time, there is no new information or changed circumstances that would substantially change the direct, indirect and cumulative effect of the new proposed action. The effects of the Proposed Action would be similar for both locations due to the similarities of the sites.

**5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?**

Public scoping (30 days), web site posting and press releases are planned as an additional level of public communication. Public outreach was conducted for all referenced EAs prior.

**E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted**

*See Attached Section E for Review Signatures and Conclusion*