

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

Wilderness Management Plan

**Becky Peak and Government Peak Wilderness Management
Plan and Environmental Assessment**

October 31, 2013

PREPARING OFFICE

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management



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Management Plan and Environmental Assessment

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Chapter 1. Wilderness Management Plan

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1.1. Introduction

1.1.1. Background

On December 20, 2006, Congress passed the White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2006 (WPCCRDA) (Public Law 109-432). Section 1503 (a) of the WPCCRDA designated Becky Peak and Government Peak Wilderness in White Pine County, Nevada. The two wilderness areas total 24,432 acres.

WPCCRDA further states *the boundary of any portion of a wilderness area designated by subsection (a) that is bordered by a road shall be at least 100 feet from the edge of the road to allow public access*. Map 1 provides a general overview of the two wilderness areas.

Neither of the designated wilderness areas contain private and/or State-owned inholding properties within their boundaries. There is an edge holding on the southwest corner of Becky Peak Wilderness.

The Wilderness Act states that designated wilderness areas shall be managed in accordance with the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964 (16 U.S.C. 1131-1136). Section 4(b) of the Wilderness Act sets forth BLM's responsibilities in administering wilderness areas, with the primary mandate being the preservation of wilderness character. In relevant part, the Wilderness Act states: "Except as otherwise provided..., each agency administering any area designated as wilderness shall be responsible for preserving the wilderness character of the area."

Section 4(c) of the Wilderness Act describes uses that are generally prohibited in order to preserve wilderness character, as follows:

"Except as specifically provided for in this Act, and subject to existing private rights, there shall be no commercial enterprise and no permanent road within any wilderness area designated by this Act and, except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purpose of this Act (including measures required in emergencies involving the health and safety of persons within the area), there shall be no temporary road, no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or motorboats, no landing of aircraft, no other form of mechanical transport, and no structure or installation within any such area."

Because the above-described uses are prohibited as a rule, limited (rare and occasional) exceptions to the rule must meet the rigorous test of being the minimum necessary to administer the areas for the purposes of the Wilderness Act, and must occur in a manner that preserves wilderness character.

Wilderness Background

The Wilderness Act established the National Wilderness Preservation System to ensure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas of the United States. The Wilderness Act defines wilderness characteristics, the uses of wilderness, and the activities prohibited within its boundaries.

Congress designates wilderness areas to protect and preserve the lands in their natural state. As such, wilderness areas provide a contrast to lands where human activities dominate the landscape.

Wilderness areas are managed for the use and enjoyment of the American people in a manner that will:

- leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness,
- protect and preserve wilderness character, and

allow for the gathering and dissemination of information regarding their use and enjoyment as wilderness.

1.1.2. Purpose and Need for the WMP

BLM Manual 8561 (Wilderness Management Plans) requires that wilderness areas be managed pursuant to a specific management plan. In fulfillment of the above requirement, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Ely District has prepared this Wilderness Management Plan (WMP) to address future management of the two wilderness areas. A consolidated plan was determined appropriate for the areas due to their relative proximity, comparable natural and cultural resources and values, and similar management issues.

Section 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 states:

“The Secretary shall manage the public lands under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield...except that where a tract of such public land has been dedicated to specific uses according to any other provisions of law it shall be managed in accordance with such law.”

Based on the above-cited FLPMA direction, WMP decisions will be guided by requirements of the Wilderness Act and the WPCCRDA. Based on requirements of law and regulation, or by decisions reached through this planning process, some uses will be restricted or excluded on certain lands to protect and preserve wilderness character.

This WMP describes the existing environment in the wilderness. The plan proposes management actions to address specific management issues or concerns. The Environmental Assessment (EA) that follows the WMP describes and analyzes potential effects of imposing different levels of management to wilderness character. This WMP is analyzed as the Proposed Action, which is usually compared to a No Action Alternative, normally defined as the continuation of current management. However, in this instance, a true No Action Alternative cannot exist, since BLM is required to manage designated wilderness areas according to standards that were not in effect when the designated areas were being managed as multiple use public lands under FLPMA. Thus, what would normally have been a No Action Alternative is being termed a Minimal Management Alternative because it incorporates the minimum land use restrictions considered necessary to protect and preserve wilderness character. The Minimal Management Alternative includes no discretionary management actions.

1.1.3. Compliance with Existing Laws and Regulations

The WMP complies with the Wilderness Act and the enabling WPCCRDA, as well as numerous other applicable laws, regulations, and executive orders, including 43 CFR Parts 6300 and 8560.

1.1.4. Conformance to BLM policy manuals and handbooks

The WMP conforms to the requirements and management direction contained in the following BLM and Departmental policy manuals and handbooks:

- BLM Manual 1626 - Travel and Transportation Manual
- BLM Manual 6340 - Management of Designated Wilderness Areas.
- BLM Manual 8400—Visual Resource Management
- BLM Manual 8561 - Wilderness Management Plans.
- BLM Handbook H1742-1 - Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation
- BLM Handbook 1790-1—National Environmental Policy Act

1.1.5. Consistency with Existing BLM Land Use Plans

The WMP conforms to BLM wilderness management policy, as well as applicable goals, objectives and decisions of the Ely District Resource Management Plan (2008) (RMP).

Specific decisions from the above land use plans that are consistent with the wilderness and management direction contained herein include the following:

Ely District RMP: Manage designated wilderness in accordance with enabling legislation and other applicable Federal legislation and policies.

- Visual Resources: VR-1: Manage designated wilderness...for scenic qualities under Visual Resource Management Class I objectives.
- Communication Sites: LR-37: Establish designated wilderness as exclusion areas.
- Land Use Authorizations: LR-41: Establish designated wilderness as exclusion areas.
- Renewable Energy: RE-5: Establish designated wilderness as exclusion areas.
- Travel Management: TM-1: Close designated wilderness to motorized and mechanized travel according to policy and enabling legislation.
- Recreation: REC-6: Manage for recreation facilities and services such as trails, trailheads, staging areas, and associated structures in extensive recreation management areas following activity-level plans and NEPA analysis for the management of designated wilderness...for management of recreational impacts to natural and cultural resources.
- Fuelwood Collection:
 - FP-5: Allow collection of fuelwood from both live and dead trees for personal use (pinyon, juniper, and mountain mahogany) and commercial use (pinyon and juniper) throughout the planning area, except in closed areas (e.g., wilderness study areas, designated wilderness).
 - FP-9: Make pinyon, juniper, and white fir available for personal use throughout the planning area, except in closed areas (e.g., wilderness study areas, designated wilderness).

- Minerals:
 - MIN-7: Closed to leasing – Close approximately 1.5 million acres to leasing including designated wilderness and wilderness study areas.
 - MIN-12: Closed to leasing – Close approximately 1.6 million acres to solid mineral leasing. This includes designated wilderness and wilderness study areas.
- Special Designations: SD-5: Manage 22 designated wilderness areas in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964; the Nevada Wilderness Protection Act of 1989; the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2004; the White Pine County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act of 2006...
- Monitoring – Special Designations Management Areas managed as a special designation (such as ACECs, backcountry byways, and designated wilderness) will be monitored annually to determine if the resource values for which the area was designated are stable. Monitoring will focus on threats to resource values and the effectiveness of management provisions in protecting and preserving those resource values. Monitoring will assist the BLM in tracking resource conditions and making effective decisions to improve conditions for the special resource over time. Where necessary, the monitoring strategy for special designation areas will be refined during activity level planning, e.g., ...designated wilderness management plans.

1.1.6. Scope of the Wilderness Management Plan

1.2. Wilderness Overview

1.2.1. Wilderness Character

The Wilderness Act defines wilderness and mandates that the primary management direction is to preserve wilderness character. The definition of wilderness is found in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act, and the qualities of wilderness character are commonly described as follows (Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center, 2011):

- **Untrammeled** - The "earth and its community of life" are essentially unhindered and free from modern human control or manipulation in wilderness areas, "in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape." This quality is important because it helps insure that wilderness management respects the autonomy of nature that allows a place to be wild and free. This quality is impaired by human activities or actions that control or manipulate the components or processes of wilderness ecological systems.
- **Natural** - Wilderness ecological systems are substantially free from the effects of modern civilization. Preserving this quality ensures that indigenous species, patterns and ecological processes are protected and allows us to understand and learn from natural features. This quality is impaired by human actions or activities that leave scars on the landscape that would not be there naturally, like roads, trails, and seeded areas.
- **Undeveloped** - Wilderness retains its "primeval character and influence," and is essentially "without permanent improvements" or modern human occupation. Preserving this quality keeps areas free from "expanding settlement and growing mechanization" and "with the

imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable" as required by the Wilderness Act. Human developments, such as fences, water troughs, developed springs, etc., degrade this quality.

- **Outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation -** The Wilderness Act provides individuals with opportunities to experience primitive recreation, natural sights and sounds, solitude, freedom, risk, the physical and mental challenges of self-discovery and self-reliance, and to use traditional skills free from the constraints of modern culture. This quality is impaired by settings that reduce these opportunities, such as visitor encounters, signs of modern civilization, recreation facilities, and management restrictions on visitor behavior.
- **Unique, Supplemental, or Other Features -** The Wilderness Act states that wilderness areas "may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value." Though these supplemental values need not be present for an area to meet the definition of wilderness, where they are present they are part of that area's wilderness character, and must be protected as rigorously as any of the four required qualities.

1.2.1.1. Descriptions of the Wilderness Areas

The two wilderness areas lie within the Central Basin and Range, a mosaic of basins, scattered low and high mountains, and salt flats. The area contains diverse landforms and vegetation types, ranging from salt bush and greasewood communities in lower elevations to sagebrush-covered plateaus to pinyon and juniper in higher elevations. Wilderness is managed under Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class I Management Objectives, generally defined as pristine landscape with few or no human developments.

These wilderness areas are found within a two-hour drive from Ely, Nevada. They are located in White Pine County in Nevada. Becky Peak Wilderness spans 18,119 acres and ranges in elevation from 6,000 feet to 10,000 feet in the northern Schell Creek Range. Government Peak Wilderness encompasses 6,313 acres and ranges from 5,800 feet to 7,800 feet in the northern Snake Creek Range. See Map 1 overview.

The areas exhibit characteristics valued for wilderness designation. Visitors will experience very low levels of human impacts, abundant solitude, and may enjoy several primitive recreational opportunities, such as hiking, hunting, camping, scenic viewing and nature study. The wilderness areas provide opportunities to experience a sense of seclusion and isolation. The numerous draws, ravines, rocky outcrops, and ridges create secluded locales that provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Although annual visitation is difficult to quantify across such a large area, low visitor numbers have been observed. Year round visitation is possible, but the wilderness areas' remoteness and ruggedness have historically prohibited high levels of human use and development.

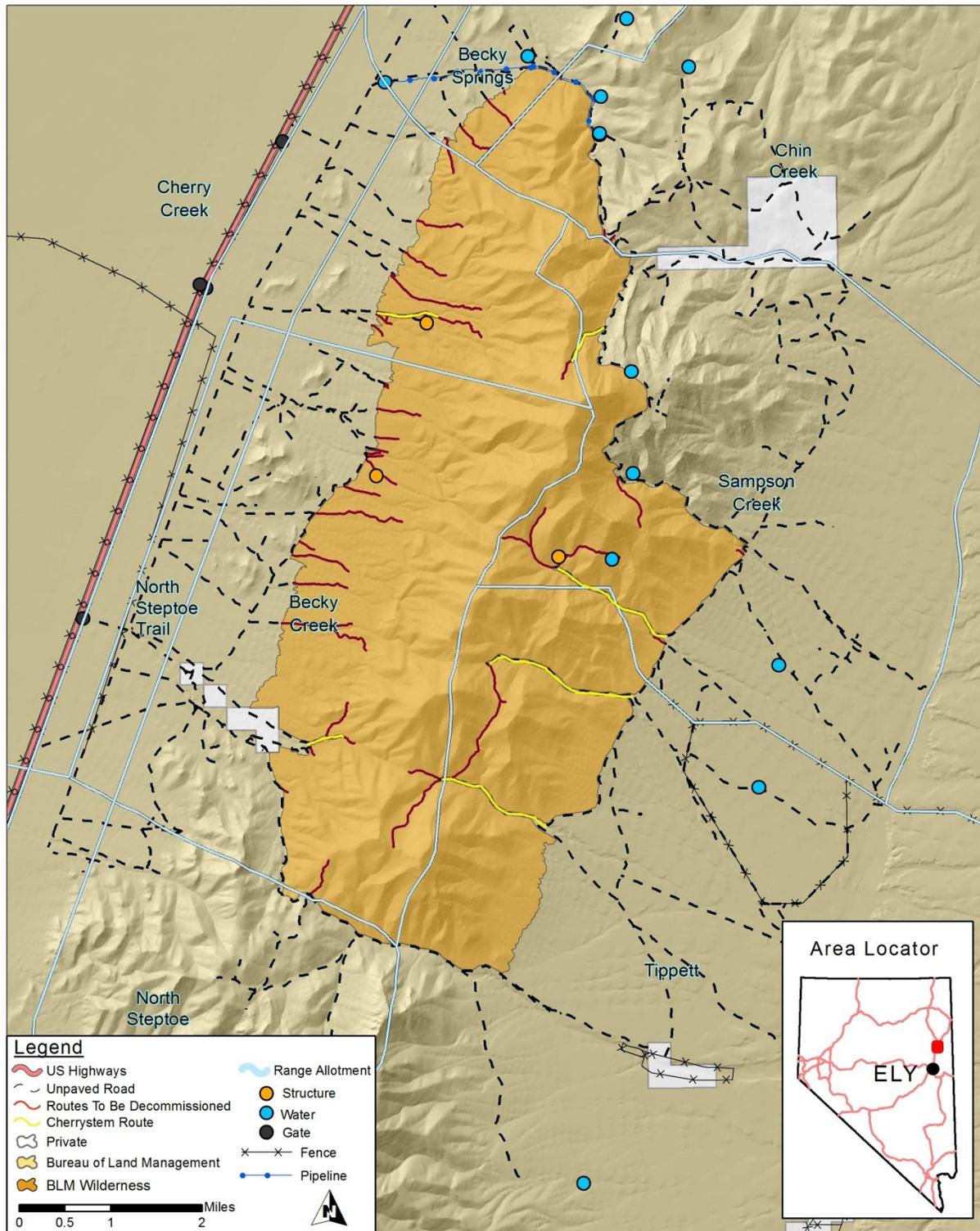
Wildlife populations characteristic of the Basin and Range are supported by the diverse habitat types found in these wilderness areas. Key habitats include sagebrush steppe, cliffs and canyons, riparian areas, and montane woodlands. Hunting and shed antler collection occurs in wilderness and trapping occurs in the area subject to applicable State and Federal laws and regulations. Nongame species of mammals, reptiles, and birds are diverse and provide the prey base for the predators of the area. Because the Wilderness Act precludes commercial enterprises in wilderness, trapping in wilderness that involves the commercial sale of fur, hides, or other animal parts is prohibited.

Water sources include a few developed and undeveloped springs in Becky Peak Wilderness. The region's varying climate and elevation provide important habitat for a variety of wildlife.

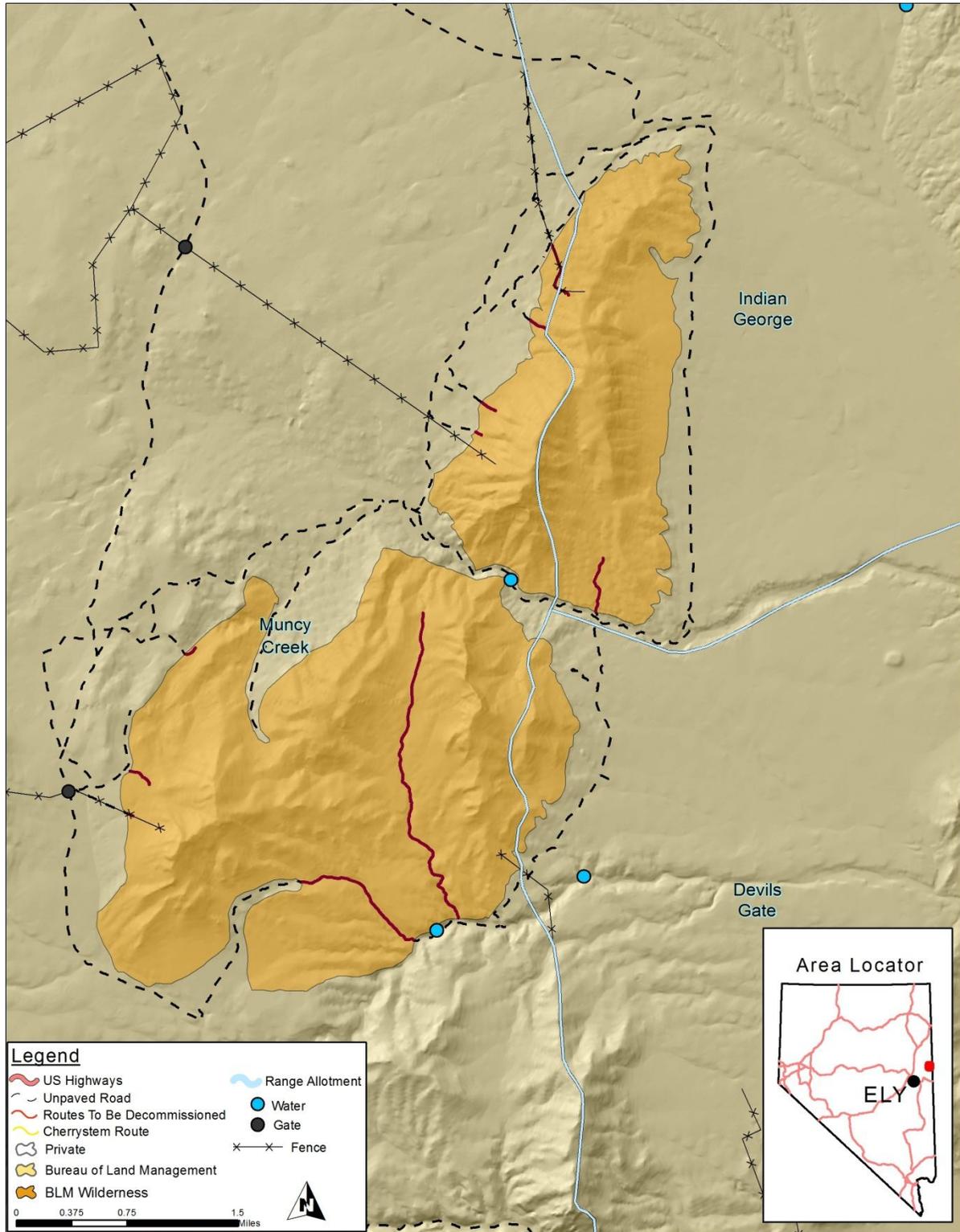
Both of the wilderness areas support livestock grazing. Active grazing permits existed at the time of wilderness designation and are authorized to continue under the direction of the Congressional Grazing Guidelines. Table A lists the number of range projects located in each of the wilderness areas.

Six cherry-stem routes provide public access to the Becky Peak Wilderness. Cherry-stem routes are usually defined as dead-end routes where the boundary of the wilderness extends up one side of the route, around its terminus, and down the other side. Government Peak Wilderness has no cherry stem routes. However, one route bisects the Government Peak Wilderness, effectively splitting the wilderness in half. To ensure that wilderness areas are not affected by vehicular use of cherry-stem routes, turn-arounds at the end of cherry-stem routes will be limited to the total width of the cherry-stem.

MAP 2: CURRENT CONDITIONS BECKY PEAK WILDERNESS



MAP 3: CURRENT CONDITIONS GOVERNMENT PEAK WILDERNESS



1.3. Management Strategy

The management strategy for the designated Wilderness is to manage human use in a manner that protects and preserves the natural, untrammeled, and undeveloped wilderness character, as well as the opportunities for solitude and primitive experience. In addition, as issues arise, discretionary actions may be taken to address the effects of natural and human-caused disturbances.

This WMP considers existing resource and management issues within the wilderness. Management actions describe resource protection to ensure conformity with wilderness management goals and objectives.

1.3.1. Wilderness Management Goals and Objectives

This section outlines the goals and objectives that guide this WMP. The goals, along with related laws, regulations, and BLM policies, provide broad management direction and are refined into specific objectives. Objectives are statements of desired conditions stemming from current situations and assumptions about the future.

1.3.1.1. Wilderness Goal 1

To provide for the long-term protection and preservation of the areas' wilderness character under a principle of non-degradation. The areas' natural condition, opportunities for solitude, opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation, and any ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value present will be managed so that they would remain unimpaired.

1.3.1.1.1. Objectives

- Preserve the natural and untrammeled character and influence of wilderness areas by allowing fire to function in its natural role of disturbance and succession, except where life, property, and/or high value resources are threatened.
- Protect and preserve wildlife habitat to support healthy, viable, and naturally distributed wildlife populations to retain the wilderness areas' natural and undeveloped character.
- Maintain the natural wilderness character by reducing or eliminating infestations of noxious weeds and non-native invasive species.

1.3.1.2. Wilderness Goal 2

To manage the wilderness area for the use and enjoyment of visitors in a manner that would leave the areas unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness. The wilderness resource will be dominant in all management decisions where a choice must be made between preservation of wilderness character and visitor use.

1.3.1.2.1. Objectives

- Manage wilderness areas using the minimum tool, equipment, structure or method necessary to accomplish the objective. The chosen tool, equipment, structure or method should be the one that least degrades wilderness character and values, temporarily or permanently.
- Utilize education and interpretation as a proactive approach to address agency decisions and visitor activities that may impact wilderness character.
- Prevent unauthorized use of motorized and mechanized vehicles and equipment by managing vehicle access points, posting appropriate boundary and informational signs, and blocking and rehabilitating unauthorized routes.

1.3.1.3. Wilderness Goal 3

To manage the wilderness areas using the minimum tool, equipment, or structure necessary to successfully, safely, and economically accomplish the objective. The chosen tool, equipment, or structure should be the one that least degrades wilderness values temporarily or permanently. Management will seek to preserve spontaneity of use and as much freedom from regulation as possible.

1.3.1.3.1. Objectives

- Implement proposed actions as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the areas as wilderness and to have the least impact to wilderness character.
- Utilize the Minimum Requirements Analysis (MRA) to determine actions necessary and the minimum necessary, methods and tools while preserving wilderness character to the greatest extent practicable.

1.3.1.4. Wilderness Goal 4

To manage nonconforming but accepted uses permitted by the Wilderness Act and subsequent laws in a manner that would prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the areas' wilderness character. Nonconforming uses are the exception rather than the rule; therefore, emphasis is placed on maintaining wilderness character.

1.3.1.4.1. Objectives

- Authorize special provisions permitted by the enabling legislation in a manner that preserves wilderness character by minimizing developments, degradation of naturalness, and other impacts to wilderness character and values.
- Close or limit access to specific areas when resources, such as soils, vegetation, sensitive plant or animal populations or habitat, or cultural resources are being negatively affected by visitor activities.
- Maintain or enhance the natural wilderness character by removing unnecessary facilities and minimizing or reclaiming human-caused surface disturbances.

- Authorize commercial services in wilderness areas that prevent negative impacts to wilderness character through education of their customers and the public.
- Ensure that current Fire Management Plans are consistent with the goals of this WMP and current Wilderness management policies.

1.4. Wilderness Management Actions

1.4.1. Education and Interpretation

General interpretive information regarding natural and cultural resources and recreation opportunities in wilderness would be located on kiosks outside of wilderness, in brochures, on BLM recreation maps, and on the BLM Ely and State Office websites. Wilderness maps would include area descriptions, designated trails, interpretive information, and information on wilderness ethics and *Leave No Trace* principles. *Leave No Trace* ethics would also be emphasized in classes and workshops presented at local schools and in the field. Interpretive trails would not exist in wilderness areas.

When feasible, interpretive and informational materials would be developed in collaboration with other agencies, tribes, non-governmental organizations, and interested individuals.

Wilderness boundary signs would be simple installations (e.g., carsonite or metal posts) used to delineate wilderness boundaries from adjacent non-wilderness, and would be located in accordance with BLM Manual 6340.

Key entrance signs would identify the name of the wilderness and would be placed where visitors are likely to contact the wilderness boundary. Entrance signs are large, BLM-brown signs.

Information boards containing one panel informational and interpretive signs would exist at access points, along major roads, or at staging areas. These signs would provide local and regional information about wilderness, natural and cultural resources, regulatory information, and interpretation. Additional signs would be installed as visitor needs warrant.

1.4.2. Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ES&R)

The overall goal of the wilderness ES&R program is to maintain the natural wilderness character by facilitating the natural recovery of burned areas, while minimizing or precluding noxious weed and non-native invasive species infestations.

Pursuant to BLM Manual 6340, ES&R activities should be conducted as part of the fire incident and in accordance with current Department of Interior policy (Departmental Manual 620 DM 3 - Wildland Fire Management Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation) and BLM ES&R policy (H-1742-1 - Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Handbook). Stabilization, rehabilitation, and restoration activities may be intensive when post-fire processes threaten ecological integrity or wilderness character. ES&R activities within wilderness must follow the guidance below:

1. Natural recovery of native plant species is preferable to all other treatments.

2. Seeding or planting would be used when objectives for natural recovery cannot otherwise be accomplished and there is a threat to wilderness character and values if no action is taken. The use of native material, preferably of local or regional genetic stock, would be first priority.
3. Non-native species may be seeded or planted if no native species are available and the non-native species are part of an assisted succession program, which promotes the rehabilitation of native vegetation. The proposed action must meet at least one of the following criteria:
 1. the natural biological diversity of the treated area would not be diminished; or
 2. exotic and naturalized species can be confined within the treated area, or
 3. ecological site inventory information indicates that a site would not support reestablishment of a species that was historically a part of the natural environment.

The following activities could occur in Wilderness and may be approved on a case-by-case basis by the District Manager. These activities would follow standards presented in the Fire Suppression Guidelines section and must be necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of these two areas as wilderness.

- The use of overland motorized equipment.
- The location of helibases and helispots.
- Sling loading materials into or out of wilderness using a helicopter.
- Helicopters or other aircraft for aerial seeding.

1.4.3. Fire Management

The overall goal of wilderness fire management is to emphasize protection and preservation of wilderness character. This goal requires BLM to facilitate the operation of natural processes and ecological change by allowing fire to function in its natural role of disturbance and succession, except where life, property, and/or high value resources are threatened. An integral part of this process is ensuring that Fire Management Plans (FMPs) are consistent with Wilderness legislative requirements and BLM management policies, as well as the goals and objectives of this WMP. The goals and objectives of this WMP would be incorporated into future FMP revisions.

In addition to the Wilderness Act, fire suppression and rehabilitation activities would be consistent with current National Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (NIFC 2011), FMP and RMP. Fire management activities within wilderness areas would utilize Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST) (USDI 2010b).

Response to a wildland fire in or near wilderness would consider the full range of fire management strategies and tactics to achieve multiple objectives (ranging from monitoring to full suppression). BLM staff would define the set of multiple objectives to protect and/or enhance wilderness character, while considering situational factors, such as fuel loading, fire behavior, and threats to human life and property.

Off-road travel and development of new access routes would not be authorized for fire suppression.

1.4.4. Fire Suppression Actions

Pursuant to Section 4(c) of the Wilderness Act, otherwise prohibited uses may be authorized in wilderness areas only when they are determined to be "...necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purpose of this Act..." While administrative activities should always be accomplished with economic efficiency, both the Wilderness Act and the agency's wilderness policy direct managers away from using either the cost or the time required for implementation as over-riding considerations when evaluating the potential use of otherwise prohibited activities.

An evaluation and approval template for emergency actions that functions as a Minimum Requirements Analysis is in Appendix B-1 of BLM Manual 6340. Revisions to this approval process would be consistent across BLM District boundaries, as well as with this WMP.

1.4.5. Fire Suppression Guidelines

The following list guide suppression actions considered during development of an emergency fire response.

- Assign a resource advisor with knowledge and experience in wilderness stewardship to the firefighting team to assist in identifying and protecting wilderness character.
- Prevent the establishment of noxious weeds and invasive species to preserve the natural wilderness character.
- Inspect and wash all suppression equipment prior to wilderness entry, but locate wash-down sites outside of wilderness areas.
- Locate camps and other assembly points outside of wilderness areas and away from areas infested by noxious weeds and invasive species.
- Avoid using water sources containing invasive species for suppressing fires in wilderness.
- Use MIST when feasible, as long as the safety of firefighters, human life and property is protected.
- Locate support operations, such as helispots, fire camps, and staging areas outside of wilderness.
- Remove or rehabilitate evidence of human intervention to the maximum extent possible.
- Repair fire suppression-related resource damage immediately
- Plan and implement actions prior to the suppression incident organization demobilization.
- Repairs to damaged sites or resources may occur with the same type of equipment that was used for suppression. For example, if motorized, earth-moving equipment was used to construct fire lines, then the same type of equipment may be used to contour and rehabilitate.

The District Manager as the delegated authority, must document their approval of otherwise prohibited uses, and the documentation must be included in the wilderness fire activity reports.

Type of Prohibited Use Requested:

- Erosion Control Treatment (biodegradable material such as mulch)
- Motorized Water Pumps
- Aerial Retardant Application
- Air Transport/Personnel Shuttle (landings) and Supply Drops
- Fence (Facility) Repair or Temporary Fence Installation
- Chainsaws
- Motor Vehicles
 - Engines
 - Helicopter Transports
 - Crew Trucks
 - UTV/ATV
- Helispot Construction (major ground disturbance)
- Monitoring Facility Installation (temporary ES&R)
- Erosion Control Installations (check dams, wattles, includes stakes, wire, or other semi-permanent materials)
- Other Standard Emergency Stabilization Treatments (Seeding, Planting, Weed treatments (including chemicals), other)
- Heavy Equipment (equipment associated with major ground disturbance, i.e. bulldozers, excavators)

Post-fire drill seeding or other major ground disturbing ES&R activities.

1.4.6. Livestock Management

The overall goal of livestock management is to provide for continued livestock grazing in wilderness areas in a manner that minimizes impacts to the natural, undeveloped, and untrammled wilderness character.

Section 4(d)(4)(2) of the Wilderness Act provides for continued livestock grazing where it existed prior to wilderness designation, subject to reasonable regulations deemed necessary by the Secretary of Interior.

A total of ten grazing allotments are located partially within the two wilderness areas. Livestock grazing is currently authorized within the wilderness portions of the allotments.

Allotment Name	Approximate Acres within Wilderness	Approximate Range Developments	Wilderness
Becky Creek	7320	1	Becky Peak

Becky Springs	314	0	Becky Peak
Cherry Creek	3323	1	Becky Peak
Chin Creek	846	0	Becky Peak
North Steptoe	67	0	Becky Peak
Sampson Creek	2821	1	Becky Peak
Tippett	3116	0	Becky Peak
Devils Gate	221	0	Government Peak
Indian George	1516	0	Government Peak
Muncy Creek	4576	0	Government Peak

Planning related to grazing operations would be guided by the Congressional Grazing Guidelines (House Report 105-405 Appendix A, 1990) and BLM Manual 6340. Livestock grazing in wilderness areas will be administered pursuant to the Mojave – Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council and Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Standards so long as the grazing does not conflict with the preservation of wilderness character or with the protection.

Section 4(c) of the Wilderness Act requires activities in wilderness areas to be accomplished without motorized or mechanized vehicles and equipment unless truly necessary to administer the area, or when specifically permitted by other provisions of the Wilderness Act.

Section 2 of the Congressional Grazing Guidelines (Appendix A of House Report 101-405, 1990) provides the following direction for maintenance of livestock grazing-related facilities and the occasional use of motorized equipment in wilderness:

“The maintenance of supporting facilities, existing in an area prior to its classification as wilderness (including fences, line cabins, water wells and lines, stock tanks, etc.) is permissible in wilderness. Where practical alternatives do not exist, maintenance or other activities may be accomplished through the occasional use of motorized equipment...Such occasional use of motorized equipment should be expressly authorized in the grazing permits for the area involved. The use of motorized equipment should be based on a rule of practical necessity and reasonableness...Moreover, under the rule of reasonableness, occasional use of motorized equipment should be permitted where practical alternatives are not available and such use would not have a significant adverse impact on the natural environment. Such motorized equipment uses will normally only be permitted in those portions of a wilderness area where they had occurred prior to the area’s designation as wilderness or are established by prior agreement.”

Routine livestock management activities in wilderness areas, including project inspection and maintenance (e.g. minor fence repairs or small quantity salt distribution) would normally be accomplished by non-motorized, non-mechanized means. Motorized or mechanized vehicles and equipment would be authorized on a limited basis on existing administrative access routes only for major project maintenance or repair, when needed to transport equipment or supplies that cannot reasonably be accomplished by foot, pack stock, or other non-motorized or non-mechanized means.

Scheduled access with motorized or mechanized vehicles and equipment for facility maintenance has not yet been established. Requests by grazing permittees for occasional use of motorized or mechanized vehicles and equipment will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis through a Minimum Requirements Analysis to determine whether they are the minimum tool necessary for administration of the area as wilderness.

The viability and usefulness of existing wilderness range projects would be evaluated in consultation with the permittee during the permit renewal process. If a range project or other

structure is determined to be abandoned and not of historical or cultural value, it would be removed by the permittee, BLM staff, or authorized volunteers. Ground disturbing activities associated with project removal would be subject to prior National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 consultation.

Proposals for new livestock water or other developments would not be approved unless they are determined to be the minimum necessary to protect or preserve wilderness character. New project proposals would require both an environmental analysis and a MRA.

Administrative access routes would not be maintained or repaired except on a site-specific basis with BLM authorization. Prior to authorizing route maintenance, the affected BLM Field Office would complete a MRA to ensure that the minimum tool necessary was to be used to accomplish the objective. If necessary, a gate or bollard, signed as administrative access, would be installed at the entrance to an administrative route to prevent unauthorized motorized access.

Permittees would be authorized to use motorized vehicles during emergency situations, such as rescuing sick or stranded animals. A permittee would not need prior authorization for emergency vehicular access, though they would be required to notify the BLM authorized officer immediately afterward. Authorization for emergency access would be included as a term and condition of the grazing permit.

1.4.7. Military Operations

According to Section 326 of the WPCCRDA, military over flights of wilderness areas, including low-level over flights, are not precluded or restricted. Ground-based military maneuvers and associated activities would not be permitted in wilderness areas except in support of emergency actions.

1.4.8. Mining-related Reclamation

Subject to valid existing rights, the wilderness areas are withdrawn from (1) all forms of entry, appropriation and disposal under the public land laws; (2) location, entry and patent under the mining laws; (3) operation of the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws.

No active mining claim exists in Becky Peak Wilderness or Government Peak Wilderness. If reclamation of abandon mines is determined to be appropriate, a MRA would be conducted to decide the best and most compatible course of action. Although none are currently known, abandoned mine adits or shafts in wilderness areas would be filled in or otherwise closed to preserve wilderness character and enhance public safety.

1.4.9. Noxious Weeds and Non-Native Invasive Plants

The goal of weed management is to protect and preserve the natural wilderness character by sustaining native plant communities, and reducing or eliminating infestations of noxious weeds and non-native invasive species.

The Restoration and Vegetation Management section (Section 1.6.C.15.) of BLM Manual 6340 outlines the protocol and approval process for vegetation treatments in wilderness. Current noxious weeds and invasive plant infestations in wilderness areas include, but are not limited

to Canadian thistle, Scotch thistle, Bull thistle and cheatgrass. The potential exists for further infestations of these and other species from surrounding areas.

The Becky Peak and Government Peak Wilderness have long perimeters compared to the area within their boundaries. These long wilderness boundaries increase the potential for the spread of noxious weeds and non-native invasive plants from surrounding areas. The wilderness areas must be managed to maintain the degree of wilderness character that existed at the time of designation.

Manipulation of vegetation through any one or a combination of prescribed fire, chemical application, mechanical treatment, or introduced biological agents may be permitted in wilderness areas only to preserve wilderness character and values. While these activities may have short- or long-term effects on vegetative species or communities, the ultimate goal is to facilitate improvement in ecological condition, and thus, the natural quality and character of the affected wilderness.

Although weed prevention is the ultimate objective, three primary types of restoration may help to preserve wilderness character (BLM Manual 6340):

1. **Site-specific disturbance** - Restoration normally includes site-specific treatments to restore the appearance and promote regrowth of native vegetation on disturbed site(s).
2. **Control of non-native vegetation** - Non-native vegetation that interferes with ecosystem function may be controlled using the most effective method(s) while causing the least damage to non-target species. Native species may be reseeded or replanted following weed treatment where natural seeding is not adequate, and to prevent reestablishment of non-native vegetation.
3. **Large-scale landscape function** - In some areas, human disturbance has changed the vegetative composition, density, and structure, with impacts to soil stability, watershed function, and wildlife habitat. Although these areas may not be able cannot be returned to a natural state without intervention, management should determine whether the required type, extent, and level of intervention is feasible and practical and will not cause unacceptable impacts to wilderness character as a whole.

If, through a MRA, the BLM authorized officer determines that weed treatment is necessary, emphasis would be placed on controlling small (<0.1 acre) infestations of noxious and invasive weeds that have the potential to spread and displace native plants. Larger infestations would be considered separately, since they could involve several treatment applications or associated tactics. Post-treatment seeding and/or transplant projects would follow guidelines contained in the ES&R section of this plan. BLM Ely District weed management protocols (BLM 2010) would guide the use of herbicides. Treatments would be prioritized in the following order, though it is likely that treatment combinations would be necessary in some situations:

1. Manual removal with hand tools if weeds can be controlled or eradicated without causing re-sprouting, without undue soil disturbance leading to expansion of infestations, and where infestations are of a size manageable by hand crews.
2. Herbicides applied by backpack or pack stock (horse, mules, or llamas).
3. Biological control approved by APHIS.

4. Herbicides applied aerially or with motorized equipment, where control is feasible, where control impacts may be quickly and readily rehabilitated, and where the infestation is of such size that herbicide(s) cannot be effectively applied without motorized equipment. Use of motorized equipment would require a Minimum Requirements Analysis.
5. Alternative treatments, including targeted grazing by livestock.

For treatments involving herbicides, Standard Operating Procedures, the manufacturer's label, and mitigation and conservation measures listed in the Record of Decision for the Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides Programmatic EIS (USDI 2007) (or more current decision), as well as the Ely District Integrated Weed Management Plan and Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-NV-L000-2009-0010-EA) (or more current decision) would be followed. Treatments would be designed to facilitate movement toward native vegetative composition and structure. Actions to rehabilitate the effects from fire or other natural disasters are considered emergency actions and could be authorized in locations where natural seed sources are inadequate to compete with non-native vegetation and/or where substantial unnatural soil loss is expected (also see ES&R Section above). Managers would adjust the level of response by considering current ecological health and vigor against the potential for invasion by undesirable species.

Chemical treatment may be necessary to prepare habitat for the reestablishment of native species, to protect or recover habitat that supports Federally-listed threatened, endangered, or candidate species, or to correct unnatural conditions resulting from modern human influence. Management actions must comply with label directions and regulatory requirements for chemical application near water bodies.

1.4.10. Recreation Management

Solitude and primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities exist in both wilderness areas. One of the main goals of wilderness management is to provide for visitor use and enjoyment in a manner that leaves wilderness areas unimpaired for future use and enjoyment. Thus, the protection and preservation of wilderness character, and the protection and enhancement of wilderness supplemental values that are of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value would be dominant in all decisions regarding the promotion or management of visitor use.

Supplemental rules will be published in the Federal Register for all visitor use requirements established in the WMP, as specified in 43 CFR 8365.1-6. BLM would use public outreach and education about *Leave No Trace* land use ethics to encourage minimum impact land use practices to accomplish wilderness recreation goals.

No permits are required for the public to visit the wilderness. While BLM would aim to minimize limitations or controls on visitor use in wilderness areas, the following general visitor use standards are designed to minimize effects to resources and maintain compliance with wilderness policy.

1.4.11. Camping in Wilderness

Campgrounds and campsites would not be developed or improved in wilderness areas. Therefore, the following restrictions would be imposed on dispersed and unmanaged camping to preclude effects to health and safety, and minimize potential effects to wilderness character, including impacts to soils, vegetation, and water quality, and conflicts with wildlife and livestock.

- The BLM Nevada occupancy rule: A person may not occupy undeveloped public lands or designated sites or areas for more than 14 days within a 28 consecutive day period. Following the 14 days, a person and their personal property must relocate to a site outside of at least a 25 mile radius from the occupied site for a period of 14 days. An occupancy limitation rule was established to reduce user conflicts caused by long-term occupancy that may hamper reasonable opportunities for other members of the public to camp in or use the same area. Additionally, long-term occupancy can result in vegetation trampling, erosion, wildlife disruption and improper waste disposal. BLM established occupancy limits for camping with the publication of a notice in the Federal Register on Oct. 5, 1993.
- Campers must be away 100 feet from natural springs or developed upland water sources (e.g., troughs, reservoirs, etc.) to limit potential conflicts with wildlife and livestock. NRS 503.660.
- Campers are encouraged to use *Leave No Trace* principles and bury human waste in catholes dug at least 6” to 8” deep and 200 feet from water, trails, and campsites. Proper disposal of human waste will minimize pollution of water sources, avoid the possibility of someone else finding it, and minimize the potential to spread disease.
- Campers must use pack-in/pack-out land use ethics, including toilet paper, to reduce noxious odors, insects and/or unwanted animal encounters.

1.4.12. Hunting and Trapping

- Private or commercially-guided hunting for big game, upland game, and other species would be permitted in wilderness areas on foot or horseback subject to State and Federal laws.
- Pursuant to Section 4(c) of the Wilderness Act, commercial trapping is prohibited in wilderness areas. Commercial trapping is defined as trapping that involves the sale of furs, hides, or other animal body parts.
- Personal, non-commercial trapping would be permitted, subject to applicable State and Federal laws and regulations. Access to traps would be limited to foot or horseback.
- Section 4(c) of the Wilderness Act precludes structures and installations in wilderness areas. As such, permanent blinds for hunting, photography, or other purposes are prohibited.
- Temporary, portable or “pop-up” blinds would be permitted for hunting, photography, wildlife observation or similar purposes for a 14 day use period. They must be attended or occupied at least some portion of a ten day period within the 14 days or will be subject to removal.

1.4.13. Special Recreation Permits

Section 4(c) of the Wilderness Act precludes most commercial enterprises in wilderness areas other than valid rights that existed prior to wilderness designation. Section 4(d)(6) of the Wilderness Act, however, provides an exception for commercial services that are deemed “...proper for realizing the recreational or other wilderness purposes of the areas.” Commercial enterprises that are wilderness-dependent, contribute to *Leave No Trace* or environmental education, and that do not degrade wilderness character are considered proper for realizing the recreational purposes of the areas, including commercial outfitting and guide services, and riding and pack stock rentals.

Currently, licensed commercial outfitters and guides hold BLM Special Recreation Permits (SRPs) for hunting in wilderness in Nevada. Permitted outfitters are required to hold a commercial outfitter and guide license issued by the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW). There are licensed master guides in Nevada that provide guide service for big game, game birds, game fish, furbearers and unprotected wildlife. There are also licensed subguides working under master guides to provide guide services. NDOW maintains agreements with the BLM to ensure master guides are in good standing in Nevada.

Approximately 18 SRPs are issued annually for commercially guided big game hunts in areas affecting most of the wilderness areas in the state. BLM would continue to issue SRPs to licensed commercial outfitters and guides for activities involving the following activities as long as they provide services deemed necessary for realizing the recreational values of the wilderness areas, and as long as they operate within the terms and conditions of their SRP:

- Hunting
- Fishing
- Pack trips
- Hiking
- Camping
- Nature viewing
- Still photography

SRPs would also be issued to the following on an as needed basis:

- Entities whose message includes an emphasis on wilderness ethics, *Leave No Trace*, or environmental education, and
- Entities whose primary purpose is to support individuals with disabilities.

SRPs for outfitter and guide operations (new or changes to previously held permits) within wilderness areas may or may not require environmental analysis, depending on the scope and scale of their proposals.

1.4.14. Visitor Use Capacity

Due to remote and primitive access, the wilderness areas exhibit outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreational experiences, with relatively few visitors. Therefore, wilderness access permits would not be required, and no need exists to establish group size limits in wilderness areas at this time. If future monitoring shows that solitude, primitive recreational experiences, or other wilderness characters are adversely affected by increased visitor numbers or encounters, visitor use capacity limits would be re-evaluated where necessary.

Dispersed use of the wilderness occurs primarily in the fall hunting season for big game and upland bird species in both wilderness areas. Additional use occurs in the spring and summer by individuals seeking hiking, photography, and backpacking related recreation. Due to the

remoteness and ruggedness of the wilderness, visitor use is not expected to increase substantially, and therefore, should not adversely affect existing wilderness character.

Current and foreseeable recreational use levels do not warrant significant facility construction. Installation of informational and educational kiosks may be appropriate at certain staging areas and cherry-stem routes, all of which are located outside of wilderness boundaries.

1.4.15. Other Visitor Use

- Traditional geocaching and letterboxing are prohibited to reduce soil and vegetation disturbance caused by object burial and leaving items in wilderness.
- To reduce weed transport and infestation within the wilderness areas, supplemental feed for riding and pack stock should be certified weed-free. Recommended for 96 hours before entering public lands, feed pack animals only certified weed free feed. Remove weed seeds from pack animals by brushing them thoroughly and cleaning their hooves.
- Pursuant to Section 4(c) of the Wilderness Act, commercial enterprises are prohibited in wilderness, including the collection of any resource, including shed antlers, for the purpose of commercial sale.
- Casual collection on foot or horseback (surface only, no digging) of small quantities (<25 lbs.) of renewable and mineral resources would be permitted (i.e., wood, fruit, vegetation, rock and mineral specimens, petrified wood, shed antlers, and common invertebrate and plant fossils).
- To reduce impacts to the natural wilderness character and protect the area for future generations, individuals may not cut, break, or otherwise destroy standing live and dead trees or shrubs for firewood (or clear an area for a campsite, visitor convenience, or comfort). Only dead and down woody material may be used for firewood.
- To preserve the area's history, vertebrate fossils and cultural, archaeological, and historic sites and artifacts may not be damaged or removed without BLM authorization. Prior to any action in wilderness, the potential effects on cultural resources will be evaluated per Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, per Ely District guidelines and the BLM Nevada State Protocol Agreement with the State Historic Preservation Office.

1.4.16. Trail Designation and Management

Hiking to the summits of Becky and Government Peaks are current recreational activities. The peak summit registers consisting of paper and pencil in a container would remain. Pedestrian or equestrian trails would not be constructed within the wilderness; there is not the need to facilitate visitor use or reduce impacts to wilderness character and resources. Signs and structures related to recreational use would not be placed in wilderness unless a MRA determined that they are the minimum necessary for administration of the area as wilderness. They may be justified due to an extraordinary hazard or to protect naturalness where it is being impacted from visitor use, but not for visitor convenience.

Remnant two-track roads and user-created trails would be considered part of the wilderness experience and would not be marked or signed, would not receive routine maintenance, and would not be displayed on BLM recreation maps or brochures. As time and funding allow, BLM

may take action to rehabilitate surface disturbances with actions similar to those discussed in the fire rehabilitation and weed control sections of this document. Otherwise, trails and two-track roads would be allowed to revegetate naturally unless their continued use causes excessive soil erosion or adversely affects wilderness character.

Access points are defined as locations along wilderness boundaries where focused entry occurs. Over time, these and other areas used for parking along boundary roads may be impacted to the point at which improvements should be made in order to protect wilderness character. These access points and parking areas may be defined by creating a vehicle turn-around at or before the wilderness boundary and would not extend into wilderness.

1.4.17. Research and Monitoring

One of the goals of wilderness management is to respond to the need for scientific investigation and discovery, while minimizing or precluding adverse impacts associated with the activities. Research and climate/weather monitoring activities would not be permitted in wilderness if they can be accommodated outside of wilderness. If wilderness areas are required for research or monitoring, the activities would be conducted without motorized or mechanized vehicles or equipment, and without installation of structures or improvements that would affect the natural, undeveloped or untrammelled wilderness character. Proposals would be subject to a MRA and environmental analysis, and if authorized, would be subject to the requirements of the Wilderness Act as well as relevant guidelines in this WMP.

1.4.18. Wildlife and Fisheries Management

The overall goal of wildlife and fisheries management in wilderness areas is to protect, preserve, and where appropriate, enhance habitat to retain the wilderness areas' natural character, and to support healthy, viable, and naturally distributed wildlife populations. To facilitate these efforts, the current BLM-Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU 6300-NV-930-0402) would be reviewed for site specific proposals as well as a MRA. Also the forthcoming Nevada and Northern California Greater Sage – Grouse Land Use Plan Amendment and EIS guidance would be adopted.

While States have a primary and critical role in fish and wildlife population management (43 CFR 24), fish and wildlife management activities in wilderness would be administered in conformance with the Wilderness Act's purpose of securing an "enduring resource of wilderness" for the American people through the preservation of wilderness character. It is expected that nature, not human intervention, would play the dominant role. Therefore, to be authorized in wilderness areas, proposed wildlife actions would need to be determined necessary to protect or preserve wilderness character.

Any ground disturbing activities in wilderness would be restricted by the following RMP wildlife timing stipulations:

- Sage grouse – within four miles of active leks from March 1 – July 15 during breeding, nesting, and early brood rearing seasons.
- Migratory birds – during the migratory bird nesting season from May 1 – July 15. If disturbance occurs during this time, a bird nest survey must be completed one week prior to disturbance.

- Raptors – April 15 – July 15 within a half-mile of active raptor nests, unless the nest has been determined to be inactive for at least 5 years.
- Big Game – within big game calving/fawning/kidding grounds and crucial summer range from April 15 – June 30.
- Big Game – crucial winter range November 1 – March 31.
- Desert Bighorn Sheep – March 1 – May 31 and July 1 – August 31.

Use of prohibited tools such as motorized equipment and installations would be rare and temporary, and would be the minimum tool necessary to preserve wilderness character. Although wilderness overflights are not precluded by the WPCCRDA, every effort would be made to coordinate with wildlife managers and researchers so that overflights minimize disturbance to both wildlife and visitors.

1.4.19. Wildlife-Related Facilities

Similar to livestock permittees, NDOW, or other State or Federal agency may request administrative access into a wilderness with motorized vehicles and/or equipment for wildlife or fisheries management purposes or to complete facility maintenance and/or repairs. Water developments for wildlife in wilderness would only be considered to replace existing natural sources lost as a result of human influence. Restoration of existing natural water sources is preferred and will be analyzed for wildlife benefit prior to considering artificial water developments. Any new facilities should be considered outside of wilderness first.

The BLM Wilderness Specialist would work with the requesting agency to complete a MRA that documents the evaluation of the agency's request. For requests involving only the management of a wildlife population(s) and/or that involve no ground disturbance, the MRA and a letter of authorization with associated terms and conditions would suffice as approval. An environmental analysis, MRA and associated decision document would be needed for proposals involving ground disturbance, or motorized/mechanized use.

The effects of non-ground disturbing operations for wildlife and fisheries management in wilderness areas are analyzed in the accompanying environmental analysis for this WMP. A NDOW report would be included in an annual report to be completed by the BLM to document any landings and other motorized and mechanized access for maintenance and repairs.

1.4.20. Wildlife Relocation

According to the BLM-NDOW MOU (2012), transplants (i.e., removal or reintroduction of terrestrial wildlife species in Nevada BLM Wilderness Areas) may be permitted if necessary: (1) to perpetuate or recover a threatened or endangered species; or (2) to restore the population of indigenous species eliminated or reduced by human influence. Sites and locations outside wilderness will be used first. If sites and locations outside wilderness are not available, transplants shall be made in a manner compatible with the wilderness character of the area. Transplant projects, including follow-up monitoring, require advance written approval from the BLM, if the action requires ground disturbing activities, motorized methods, and/or temporary holding and handling facilities. Also, release of wildlife on public lands will be in conformance with BLM Manual 1745 (Introduction, Transplant, Augmentation, and Reestablishment of Fish, Wildlife

and Plants, 1992) and the BLM-NDOW MOU. A MRDG and NEPA analysis would occur for site-specific actions. If motorized or mechanized means are authorized, staging would occur outside the wilderness boundary. When feasible, the specific project implementation will occur during periods when visitor use is low (for example, weekdays). In order to inform visitors of impending activity, relocation dates would be posted on the BLM website two weeks in advance.

1.4.21. Wildlife Damage Management

Wildlife interactions occasionally affect Federally-listed threatened, endangered, or candidate species, transmit diseases or parasites that affect wildlife and humans, or cause serious losses of domestic livestock. Wildlife damage control in wilderness may be necessary to prevent one or more of these impacts. Although hunting in wilderness areas is permitted for big game, upland game, and other species during NDOW-regulated seasons, killing or otherwise controlling a native wildlife species to reduce conflicts with other native species is not permitted, unless consistent with preservation of wilderness character. In wilderness, agencies would use the minimum control necessary to conduct wildlife damage control activities.

Proposals that involve uses generally prohibited under Section 4(c) of the Wilderness Act would be evaluated through a MRA.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will provide BLM with data on animal damage control activities (numbers and types of animals taken) that occurs within wilderness for the District annual wilderness reports. Activities would use the minimum amount of control necessary to resolve wildlife damage problems. Acceptable control measures would be determined through coordination and associated analysis conducted by the agencies involved. Activities in wilderness would be conducted on foot or with riding and pack stock, unless BLM determines through a MRA and would be approved by the BLM and conducted in conformance with the BLM-APHIS MOU (2012) and BLM Manual 6340 (Management of Designated Wilderness).

1.4.22. Management Action Tables

One of BLM's goals for wilderness management is to provide opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation by limiting the number and type of land use restrictions that visitors must follow, while still maintaining compliance with wilderness policy. To that end, and pursuant to the discussions of the affected environment, Table B contains a consolidated list of legislatively-required actions and proposed visitor use restrictions, and indicates whether a use: 1) is authorized without further requirements, 2) is authorized, but restricted in some manner, 3) requires prior BLM authorization, or 4) is prohibited. Table C contains BLM wilderness management decisions not specifically related to use regulation.

Use is authorized	Motorized or mechanized vehicles and equipment may be used in wilderness areas during emergencies involving search and rescue, the health or safety of individuals, or the rescuing of sick or stranded animals. Individuals must notify the BLM authorized officer immediately following completion of emergency activities. The removal of downed airplanes or other vehicle accidents, associated equipment, parts, or debris is not considered an emergency, and would require prior BLM authorization subject to a Minimum Requirements Analysis.
Use is authorized	Temporary, portable or "pop-up" blinds would be permitted only while occupied.

Use is authorized	Casual non-commercial surface collection (no digging) of small quantities (<25 lbs.) of renewable and non-renewable resources would be permitted (i.e., dead and down wood, fruit, vegetation, rock and mineral specimens, petrified wood, shed antlers, and common invertebrate and plant fossils).
Use is authorized	Personal, non-commercial trapping on foot or horseback would be permitted subject to State and Federal regulations.
Use is restricted	Supplemental feed for riding and pack stock is recommended to be certified weed-free.
Use is restricted	Backcountry camping would be limited to 14 days in any one location. After 14 days, camps must be moved at least 25 miles from the previous campsite.
Use is restricted	Campers must pack-in/pack-out all food, trash, burned material, etc.
Use is restricted	Campers may not cut, break, or otherwise destroy standing live and dead trees or shrubs for firewood (or clear an area for a campsite, visitor convenience, or comfort, such as cutting out poison ivy). Firewood collection permits are not issued for wilderness.
Use is restricted	Campers must bury human waste in catholes dug at least 6" to 8" deep and 200 feet from water, trails, and campsites.
Use requires authorization	Administrative access routes for permittee use may not be maintained or repaired without BLM authorization.
Use requires authorization	Motorized or mechanized vehicles and equipment may be authorized in wilderness areas following a Minimum Requirements Analysis for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wildlife management projects 2. Emergency stabilization and rehabilitation 3. Weed control projects
Use requires authorization	Vertebrate fossils and cultural, archaeological, and historic sites and artifacts may not be damaged or removed without BLM authorization.
Use requires authorization	Reclamation of surface disturbances associated with mining claims would be authorized subject to Federal regulations at 43 CFR 3809.
Use requires authorization	BLM would continue to issue SRPs to the following entities, as long as they provide services deemed necessary for realizing the recreational values of the wilderness, and as long as they operate within the terms and conditions of their SRP: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Licensed commercial outfitters and guides for activities involving: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hunting 2. Pack trips 3. Hiking 4. Camping 5. Nature viewing 1. Entities whose mission includes the promotion of wilderness ethics, <i>Leave No Trace</i>, or environmental education, and 2. Entities whose primary purpose is to support individuals with disabilities.
Use requires authorization	Research and monitoring activities and devices may be authorized subject to a Minimum Requirements Analysis if the information cannot be collected outside of wilderness.
Use requires authorization	New water or other developments could be permitted for livestock management or wildlife purposes if they are determined to be the minimum necessary to protect or preserve wilderness character.
Use requires authorization	Wildlife management proposals may be authorized subject to a Minimum Requirements Analysis.
Use is prohibited	Motor vehicles are prohibited for livestock monitoring, herding, and gathering.

Use is prohibited	Motorized and mechanized travel and equipment are prohibited in wilderness areas, including, but not limited to: off-highway, over-snow, and other vehicles, chainsaws, power drills, suction dredges, generators, motorboats, bicycles, game carts, wagons, and wheelbarrows. Development of new access routes is also prohibited.
Use is prohibited	Livestock grazing is prohibited in burned areas until vegetative recovery objectives are met.
Use is prohibited	Personal property not associated with an active campsite may not be left unattended, including temporary blinds.
Use is prohibited	Traditional geocaching and letterboxing activities are prohibited.
Use is prohibited	Collection of any resource, including shed antlers, for the purpose of commercial sale is prohibited.
Use is prohibited	Trapping that includes the commercial sale of fur, hides, or other animal products is prohibited.
Use is prohibited	Permanent hunting or photography blinds are prohibited.
Use is prohibited	Ground-based military maneuvers and associated activities are prohibited except in support of emergency actions, as previously described.

BLM would continue to authorize livestock grazing in wilderness, and grazing would be administered subject to the Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Standards. Planning related to grazing operations would be guided by the Congressional Grazing Guidelines (House Report 105-405 Appendix A, 1990) and BLM Manual 6340.
Grazing permittees may be authorized to use motorized and mechanized vehicles and equipment for project or facility inspection, maintenance, or repair, including stockpiling of supplies. Authorizations would be subject to a Minimum Requirements Analysis, and if approved, would be added as terms and conditions to existing grazing permits.
BLM would temporarily close or limit access to specific campsites or areas (at its discretion) when recreational or other activities are negatively affecting wilderness character.
BLM would consider commercial enterprises proper for realizing wilderness recreational purposes if the enterprises: 1) are wilderness-dependent, 2) contribute to <i>Leave No Trace</i> or environmental education, and 3) do not degrade wilderness character. Enterprises currently meeting these criteria include commercial outfitting and guide services, and therapy pack trips.
BLM would not place signs and structures in wilderness unless a Minimum Requirements Analysis determines that they are the minimum necessary for administration of the area as wilderness.
BLM would remove any unauthorized structures when encountered.
BLM would not maintain, repair, or enhance any routes along old road beds or game trails.
BLM managers may consider the full range of fire management strategies and tactics (ranging from monitoring to full suppression) to protect multiple values.
For suppressing fires in wilderness avoid using water sources containing invasive species. When practical, use only local water source for suppressing fires in wilderness to prevent cross-contamination and/or spread of aquatic invasive species.
Repairs to burned facilities or resources may be accomplished with the same or similar type of equipment that was authorized for suppression.
The following activities may be authorized during ES&R subject to a Minimum Requirements Analysis, site-specific NEPA analysis and District Manager approval: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Install temporary emergency structures (i.e., fences, hydrologic monitoring devices). 2. Install erosion control (i.e., straw bales, wattles, mulch, etc.). 3. Repair or replace burned or damaged facilities (i.e., fences, boundary signs, trails, etc.).
1. Stabilize and mitigate post-fire related degradation to cultural and historic sites and resources.
Authorized weed treatments would emphasize the control of small (<0.1 acre) infestations.
BLM will impose or adjust visitor use restrictions if monitoring shows a substantial increase in visitor use and/or indicates visitor use is causing unacceptable impacts to wilderness character.

BLM would remove existing structures and installations if they: 1) are not associated with a valid existing right, 2) are not of historical or cultural value, or 3) are not the minimum necessary for the administration of the area as wilderness.
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BLM would treat surface disturbances subject to a Minimum Requirements Analysis, using methods that have the least impact to wilderness character.
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1.5. Monitoring Program

1.5.1. Wilderness Monitoring

The current wilderness monitoring strategy (BLM Manual 6340, Appendix C) evaluates impacts to the four wilderness qualities identified in the Wilderness Act - “untrammeled,” “natural,” “undeveloped,” and “solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.” These wilderness characters form the foundation of the monitoring protocol, and each character is divided into monitoring questions, indicators, and measures to allow measurement of trends.

Wilderness monitoring activities would assess the effects to wilderness character from visitor use, activities conducted under a valid existing right, activities conducted under BLM permit, natural events (i.e., wildfire, floods, insects, etc.), and management decisions. A single activity may affect several wilderness qualities. Monitoring the effects of activities to multiple qualities of wilderness character would improve understanding of the overall effects on wilderness character.

The monitoring program would provide a greater understanding of the condition of each wilderness area. Effects of intentional, unintentional, and unauthorized activities would be captured. Information generated during wilderness monitoring would help managers determine:

- the current state of wilderness character;
- if and how wilderness character is changing over time;
- if and how stewardship actions are affecting wilderness character; and
- what stewardship priorities and decisions would best preserve and sustain wilderness character.

If monitoring reveals that visitor use is damaging cultural resources, BLM staff, with Tribal and SHPO consultation, would develop a management strategy to minimize further damage, including, but not limited to education, signage, and natural barriers.

All field reports, photographs, and monitoring data would be maintained in the official file for each wilderness at the BLM Ely District Offices. Monitoring will also provide wilderness managers with more complete information, which will improve the evaluation of future proposed activities.

1.5.2. Law Enforcement

BLM law enforcement rangers would enforce Federal laws and regulations in wilderness areas. State and local law enforcement, BLM staff, contractors, and volunteers may indirectly assist BLM law enforcement by providing information regarding wilderness-related violations. Law enforcement rangers and other BLM staff would patrol the wilderness perimeter with motorized vehicles, and would conduct patrols within wilderness on foot or horseback. Motorized vehicles and equipment, including helicopters and fixed wing aircraft, may be used for temporary emergencies involving search and rescue operations, violations of law, and/or the pursuit of

fugitives, and would be immediately followed up with notification to the appropriate BLM District manager and subsequent incident report.

1.6. PLAN EVALUATION

The WMP is a working document that would be reviewed periodically. The plan uses an adaptive management strategy that allows for plan revision when prescribed management actions or a change in the existing situation no longer meets wilderness management objectives. A revision of the WMP would be accomplished with public input. Minor corrections of typographic or cartographic errors would be made without public input by inserting an errata sheet. To the extent possible, affected land use plans would be amended as needed to conform to the legislative, regulatory, and policy requirements contained herein. Where it would not conflict with the enabling legislation or other pertinent laws and regulations, the WMP may be revised if necessary to conform to future land use planning documents or revisions.

1.7. ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The following list reflects the implementation priority for management actions identified in this WMP. Actual implementation would be subject to staff and funding availability outside the control of this plan.

1.7.1. Ongoing Activities

- Maintenance of boundary and road closure signs.
- Visitor information and education.
- Wilderness monitoring.

1.7.2. Future Activities

The following list of activities must be part of the plan implementation; however, project-specific environmental analysis may not be required because they are analyzed in the EA associated with this WMP:

- Reclamation:
- Vehicle routes not used for authorized administrative access.
- Undesirable or highly impacted campsites.
- Unauthorized vehicular impacts.
- Signs:
- Vehicle access points.
- Off-site information signs.

- Consider implementing non-ground disturbing wildlife management activities.
- Modify or remove unused or unnecessary livestock developments or other structures.
- Control infestations of noxious weeds and non-native invasive plant species.
- Monitor noxious weeds and non-native invasive plant infestations and proactively treat small infestations to prevent large-scale landscape changes.
- Issue an unlimited number of Special Recreation Permits to licensed outfitters and guides for hunting, fishing, and other commercial and group activities on an as-needed basis.

1.7.3. Subsequent Environmental Analysis

If in the future, conditions change sufficiently to warrant subsequent actions not already addressed in this WMP, additional environmental analysis may be required.

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Chapter 2. Environmental Assessment

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2.1. Background Information

2.1.1. Introduction

2.1.2. Purpose and Need

2.1.3. Relationship to Planning

2.1.4. Issues

2.2. Description of the Proposed Action and the No Action

2.3. Wilderness Management Categories

2.3.1. Noxious and Non-Native Invasive Weed Guidelines

2.3.2. Livestock Grazing Guidelines

2.3.3. Management of Small-Scale Surface Disturbances

2.3.4. Management and Designation of Trails

2.3.5. Management of Vehicle Access Points and Designation of Staging Areas

2.3.6. Sign Plan

2.3.7. Vegetation Restoration

2.3.8. Wildlife Management Guidelines

2.3.9. Herd Areas

2.3.10. Fire Management Objectives and Guidelines

2.3.11. Protection of Archaeological Resources and Historic Properties

2.3.12. Management of General Recreation Activity Guidelines

2.3.13. Management of Environmental Education and Interpretation

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Appendix A. References

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Appendix B. Maps

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Appendix C. Tables