
Bristlecone and Goshute Canyon Wilderness

Preliminary Wilderness Management Plan

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Bureau of Land Management

Ely District Office

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1. Introduction

On December 20, 2006, Congress passed the White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2006 (WPCCRDA) (Public Law 109-432), Subtitle B specifically addresses Wilderness. Section 323(a) of the WPCCRDA designated citizen-proposed Bristlecone Wilderness at 14,095 acres and Goshute Canyon Wilderness at 42,779 acres in White Pine County, Nevada. The two wilderness areas total 56,639 acres. Map 1 in Appendix A provides a general overview of the two wilderness areas.

The WPCCRDA 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."

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.
- 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 minimum necessary to administer the areas for the purposes of the Wilderness Act, and must occur in a manner that

preserves wilderness character. A Minimum Requirements Analysis (MRA) is used in conjunction with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis.

1.1. Purpose of and Need for the Wilderness Management Plan

Bureau of Land Management (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 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.

The need for the Proposed Action stems from Section 4(b) of the Wilderness Act, which requires administering agencies to preserve wilderness character. Further, Section 1.4.C. of BLM Manual 6340 (Management of Designated Wilderness Areas) requires BLM District and Field Managers, among other things, to develop and implement land use and activity-level plans addressing wilderness areas that conform to the Wilderness Act, the establishing legislation WPCCRDA and BLM wilderness policies and guidance.

Based on the analysis herein, the BLM will decide whether to manage the wilderness areas strictly according to legislative and regulatory requirements, or whether to implement a management plan that provides additional management actions to manage approved uses while ensuring adequate protection and preservation of resources and values, as well as mitigation for potential impacts to those resources and values.

This WMP describes the existing environment in the wilderness, defined in various sections. The plan proposes management actions to address specific management issues or concerns. This WMP is analyzed as the Proposed Action, and it includes directives from BLM Manual 6340.

1.2 Wilderness Overview

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, 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.

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 sagebrush-covered valleys to pinyon and juniper in higher elevations. Bristlecone Wilderness spans 14,095 acres and ranges in elevation from 7,400 feet to 9,800 feet in the central Egan Range. Goshute Canyon Wilderness encompasses 42,544 acres and ranges from 6,000 feet to 10,400 feet in the Cherry Creek Range. See Map 1 Overview, Appendix A. These wilderness areas are located within a two-hour drive from Ely, Nevada. They are located in White Pine County in Nevada.

In 2009, the Bureau of Land Management Ely District Office acquired five parcels of private inholdings within the Goshute Canyon Wilderness, identified as the Indian Creek Ranch in the Cherry Creek Range. The five Indian Creek Ranch parcels range from 6,400 to 10,100 feet in elevation and are approximately 235 acres. They currently provide a pristine habitat for a developing elk herd that was reintroduced into the Cherry Creek Range. Blue and sage grouse are also on the property. The Bristlecone pine stands on the upper parcels are a unique ecosystem.

The areas exhibit characteristics valued for wilderness designation. The two areas have retained their natural and wild characteristics, but all four wilderness characteristics are present in each wilderness. These areas in White Pine County are at the heart of the Great Basin, where magnificent mountain ranges tower over wide valleys of sagebrush. The rugged and scenic landscape supports diverse plant and wildlife species, including Rocky Mountain elk (*Cervus Canadensis*), mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), cougar (*Felis concolor*), pronghorn (*Antilocapra*

Americana), greater sage grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*), raptors, and a host of other birds, mammals, and reptiles.

The vegetation is sage, grass and juniper at lower elevations, mixed with aspen stands in the middle elevations, and bristlecone pine and fir stands mixed with grasses and forbs at the upper elevations.

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 photography. The wilderness areas provide opportunities to experience a sense of detachment and isolation. The numerous draws, ravines, rocky outcrops, and ridges create secluded locales that provide outstanding opportunities for solitude, when combined with the remoteness of the wilderness areas and the low visitor numbers. Wilderness is managed under Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class I Management Objectives. The objective of this class is to preserve the existing character of the landscape. This class provides for natural ecological changes; however, it does not preclude very limited management activity. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention.

Wildlife populations that are 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. The big game species that occupy these wilderness areas are Rocky Mountain elk, mule deer and pronghorn in the foothills and benches. There are numerous small game and furbearers in the project area such as black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*), gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), and coyote (*Canis latrans*). Raptors are commonly found nesting and foraging in the wilderness areas, and these areas provide habitat for numerous non-game species of small mammals, reptiles, and birds.

Preliminary Priority Habitat and Preliminary General Habitat for the greater sage grouse, a candidate species for federal listing, has been identified in the high mountain sagebrush communities and along the lower benches of the wildernesses. Other special status species that may occupy or utilize these wilderness areas are ferruginous (*Buteo regalis*) and Swainson's (*Buteo swainsoni*) hawks, golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), Northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), sage thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*), brewer's sparrow (*Spizella breweri*), pinyon jay (*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*), black rosy-finch (*Leucosticte atrata*), pygmy rabbit (*Brachylagus idahoensis*) and numerous bat species.

Water sources include some developed and undeveloped springs in Goshute Canyon Wilderness. There are no developed or undeveloped water sources in Bristlecone Wilderness.

Both of the wilderness areas support livestock grazing. Active grazing permits existed at the time of wilderness designation, therefore are authorized to continue under the direction of the Congressional Grazing Guidelines.

Two cherry-stem routes provide public access to Bristlecone 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. Goshute Canyon Wilderness has nine cherry stem routes. To ensure that wilderness areas are not impacted by vehicular use of cherry-stem routes, a turn-around at the end of cherry-stem routes will be limited to the total width of the cherry-stem (200'). One of the cherry stem roads in Goshute Canyon Wilderness provides

access to a portion of Goshute Creek, which provides habitat for a refuge population of Bonneville cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki utah*), a subspecies once thought to be extinct.

Wilderness Issues and Concerns Being Addressed

This WMP was prepared to address issues identified through internal agency and public scoping. Interested publics were involved in this process through letters, email, the BLM website, and personal contact. Initial scoping meetings were held during the fall of 2013 in Ely, Nevada. Issues and concerns raised during scoping were considered during development of this WMP and are described in the following sections:

1) Protecting and preserving the untrammelled, undeveloped, and natural appearance of wilderness areas

- Long boundary perimeters increase the amount of wilderness that may be impacted by human-influenced changes to vegetative structure and composition in areas immediately adjacent to the wilderness areas.
- Wildfire suppression and post-fire rehabilitation may affect the natural and undeveloped wilderness character by disturbing soil and changing vegetative composition and structure.
- Human activities may increase the establishment of noxious and invasive plant species, the following in particular: cheatgrass, Canada thistle, Scotch thistle and Bull thistle.
- Numbers of visitors to wilderness areas may increase, which could result in site-specific impacts to wilderness character.

2) Management of non-conforming land uses allowed by Section 4(d) of the Wilderness Act

- Continued livestock grazing-related activities, including access to and maintenance of existing structures (i.e., developed springs, pipelines, fences, reservoirs), may adversely affect naturalness and undeveloped wilderness character.

1.3. Wilderness Management Strategy

The management strategy for designated wilderness is to manage human use in a manner that protects and preserves the natural, untrammelled, and undeveloped wilderness character, as well as the opportunities for solitude and primitive experience, and protecting the unique and supplemental features of wilderness. All these qualities are present in Bristlecone and Goshute Canyon Wilderness and therefore will be managed to protect them from the effects of human-caused disturbances. This WMP considers existing resource and management issues within the wilderness to develop management strategy.

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. Standard Wilderness Goals are identified in BLM Manual 8561, and are required to be part of Wilderness Management Plans. The Wilderness Act suggests overall objectives as retaining primeval character, preserve natural conditions and maintaining an untrammelled quality. Objectives herein are aimed at following the Wilderness Act and are

statements of desired conditions stemming from current situations and assumptions about the future.

The Wilderness Act states that wilderness ecosystems should retain their “primeval” character. The dictionary definition of primeval, “of or relating to the earliest ages,” suggests that the Act is directing managers to maintain wilderness ecosystems in a state that existed at some time in the past. The Wilderness Act also states that wilderness ecosystems are to be preserved “in their natural condition.” There is general agreement that preserving natural conditions means ensuring that the current composition, structure and/or functioning of ecosystems are consistent with the conditions that would have prevailed in the absence of humans. Adherence to this direction would mean allowing natural ecosystem change to occur, while avoiding or compensating for changes caused by the activities of people.

The Wilderness Act provides for managing wilderness ecosystems that are untrammelled by man. Synonymous with unconfined, unfettered and unrestrained, however, “untrammelled” actually suggests freedom from human control rather than lack of human influence. Areas qualify as wilderness because they are wild and uncontrolled, despite substantial human influence. Managing for natural conditions—allowing ecosystems to evolve in novel ways, as long as the source of innovation is not human caused—is a more appropriate goal than managing for primeval conditions—such as freezing conditions at a certain state (Cole 2000). All goals and objectives must conform to the qualities of wilderness character.

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.

Objectives

- Avoid restoration activities that influence the entire wilderness and/or must be continued indefinitely. This includes restoration activities in which the wilderness goals of naturalness and wildness are clearly in conflict, such as a program of scheduled management fires set to replace natural fire.
- Protect and preserve wildlife habitat to support healthy and viable native 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.

Wilderness Goal 2

To manage the wilderness areas 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.

Objectives

- 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.

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.

Objective

- 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 MRA to determine actions necessary and the minimum necessary, methods and tools while preserving wilderness character to the greatest extent practicable.

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.

Objectives

- 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.

1.4. Wilderness Management Actions

Wilderness management actions for these areas are based on national wilderness goals, wilderness management objectives, current situation and assumptions, and wilderness-specific issues that were identified through internal and external scoping. Except for site-specific proposed actions, management actions are the same for all areas because of similar management issues.

Resource programs, such as Fire Management, Noxious and Invasive Weed Management, Range and Wild Horses and Burros, have specific plans to guide their programs that individually address the management goals and activity plans. This WMP considers all related resources involved in wilderness. Non-wilderness resource programs have been evaluated to ensure conformity with wilderness management goals and objectives. Management actions are described on the following pages. While all of the management actions provide wilderness specific direction, several outline site-specific management actions.

Any ground disturbing activities associated with the following actions would implement Best Management Practices outlined in the Ely District Approved Resource Management Plan (2008). All actions are supplemental to, and consistent with Wilderness laws, regulations, and policies, which must be further consulted in the event of unforeseen issues.

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 are 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. Boundary signs may also be used to inform visitors about additional resource concerns (e.g. no fire wood cutting, Archaeological Resource Protection Act).

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. Currently, there are no key entrance signs on either area.

Information boards containing one-panel informational and interpretive signs would exist at access points, or at staging areas. These signs would provide local and regional information about wilderness, natural and cultural resources, regulatory information, and interpretation. There is one information sign at Bristlecone Wilderness: at the end of the cherrystem on the southwest side. There are two information signs at Goshute Canyon Wilderness: one at Goshute Creek primitive recreation site and one in Goshute Basin, on the cherrystem. Additional signs would be installed, as visitor needs warrant.

Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation

The overall goal of the wilderness Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (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.

Two ES&R treatments have occurred in the Goshute Canyon Wilderness since designation in 2013, Snow Creek and Yeti. No ES&R treatments have occurred in Bristlecone Wilderness since designation.

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/or 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:
 - a. the natural biological diversity of the treated area would not be diminished; or
 - b. exotic and naturalized species can be confined within the treated area, or
 - c. 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 District Manager may approve prohibited uses for ES&R projects on a case-by-case basis subject to site-specific NEPA analysis and a MRA. These may include:

- Standard erosion control techniques that prevent or minimize soil movement and loss (i.e. straw bales, wattles, mulch)
- Stabilize and mitigate post-fire related degradation to cultural resources
- Sling loading materials into or out of wilderness using a helicopter
- Helicopters or other aircraft used for aerial seeding

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.

Since designation, three fires have occurred in the Bristlecone Wilderness - all in 2008: Bassett at 0.1 acres, NDF Assist Five at 0.1 acres and Prison at 0.4 acres - all were controlled. Three fires have been controlled in Goshute Canyon Wilderness since designation: Barton (2009) at 0.1 acres, Nat Out Two (2007) at 0.1 acres and Cherry (2007) at 1.5 acres.

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), the FMP and the Ely District RMP. Fire management activities within wilderness areas would utilize Minimum Impact Strategies and Tactics (MIST) (USDI 2010b). The intent of MIST is to manage a wildland fire with the least impact to natural and cultural resources. By

minimizing impacts of fire management actions, unnecessary resource damage is prevented and cost savings can be realized. 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 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.

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 has been developed by the Ely District. Requirements should be incorporated into emergency planning so that the minimum necessary methods and tools can be used to resolve emergencies while preserving wilderness character to the greatest extent possible. Revisions to this approval process would be consistent across BLM District boundaries, as well as with this WMP.

The following process would be used to evaluate the following actions (and any others) that may be considered during development of a proposed 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 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 with the wilderness fire activity reports.

Type of Prohibited Use:

- 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)
- Heavy Equipment (equipment associated with major ground disturbance, i.e. bulldozers, excavators)

Livestock Management

The overall goal of livestock management is to provide for continued livestock grazing in wilderness areas in a manner that minimize 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 nine grazing allotments are located partially within the two wilderness areas. Livestock grazing is currently authorized within the wilderness portions of the allotments.

Table 1. Grazing Allotments Located Partially Within Wilderness

Allotment Name	Approximate Acres within Wilderness	Approximate Range Developments	Wilderness
Goat Ranch	1,804	0	Bristlecone
Heusser Mountain	9,350	0	Bristlecone
Steptoe	488	1 - fence	Bristlecone
Thirty Mile Spring	2,451	0	Bristlecone
Cherry Creek	17,426	3 - 2 fences, pipeline	Goshute Canyon
Goshute Basin	9,696	0	Goshute Canyon
Indian Creek	2,917	1 - fence	Goshute Canyon
McDermitt Creek	2,465	0	Goshute Canyon
Medicine Butte	10,001	0	Goshute Canyon

Acreage calculated using GIS.

Indian Creek, Cherry Creek, Goshute Basin and Medicine Butte allotment developments are troughs.

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 Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Standards so long as the grazing does not conflict with the preservation of wilderness character.

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.

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 MRA to determine whether they are the minimum tool necessary for administration of the area as wilderness.

Removal

The viability and usefulness of existing wilderness range projects would be evaluated in consultation with the permittee during the permit renewal process. Prior to removal of any structure by the permittee, BLM staff, or authorized volunteers, an evaluation would take place. If a range project or other structure is determined by an Ely District Cultural Resource Specialist to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, it will be recorded. All activities that would impact or affect cultural resources would be subject to prior National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the Section 106 process.

New Developments

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 site-specific NEPA analysis and a MRA.

Existing Operations

Specific wilderness access requirements and schedules would be included as terms and conditions in affected grazing permits, during renewal periods. Terms and conditions would specify the timeframe during which vehicular access would be authorized, as well as the specific administrative route(s) and the type(s) of vehicles to be used.

Prior to a motorized, mechanized vehicle or equipment entry, a MRA must be conducted and a BLM letter of authorization must be issued to the permittee for the conditions described below:

1. Salt and mineral supplement may be delivered into wilderness areas via motor vehicle in quantities sufficient to ensure only one motorized entry annually. Subsequent distribution of stockpiled salt would be accomplished by foot, horseback, or pack stock.
2. Motorized and mechanized inspection and maintenance for troughs and pipelines in Goshute Canyon Wilderness may occur one time per year prior to livestock entry. Maintenance would be identified or accomplished during inspection. For large repair or reconstruction projects, such as pipeline or trough replacement, a one-time motorized equipment entry under this plan would be authorized in conjunction with a MRA to determine the equipment necessary.
3. Fence repair or replacement would be accomplished by foot or pack stock as there is little fence inside the wilderness boundary. The use of the motorized vehicles or equipment may be allowed for replacement or repair to damage otherwise unpreventable through routine inspection and maintenance (i.e. destruction by wildfire, or extensive damage from livestock, wild horses and/or wildlife). It is anticipated that damage which would require the use of motorized equipment or vehicles would not occur frequently.

Administrative access routes would not be maintained or repaired except on a site-specific basis with BLM authorization. Prior to authorizing route maintenance, the BLM 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.

Administrative access routes would not be maintained or repaired except on a site-specific basis with BLM authorization. Prior to authorizing route maintenance, the BLM 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.

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. Although annual visitation is difficult to quantify in these areas, visitor encounters are infrequent. Year round visitation is possible, but the wilderness areas' remoteness and ruggedness have historically prohibited high levels of recreational use or development.

BLM would use public outreach and education about *Leave No Trace* land use ethics to encourage minimum impact practices to accomplish wilderness recreation goals.

No permits are required for the public to visit the wilderness. The BLM would aim to minimize limitations or controls on visitor use in wilderness areas, while still reducing effects to resources and maintain compliance with wilderness policy.

Camping

There is one developed campground adjacent to the Goshute Canyon Wilderness boundary along Goshute Creek. Access to the wilderness is easily obtained from the western end of the camping area. No heavily used dispersed campsites exist in either wilderness. Therefore, the following restrictions would be imposed on dispersed and unmanaged camping to 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 300 feet from natural springs or developed upland water sources (e.g., troughs, reservoirs) to limit potential conflicts with wildlife and livestock.
- 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. Also, visitors are encouraged to utilize pack-in/pack-out land use ethic for all waste to reduce noxious odors, insects and/or unwanted animal encounters.

Hunting and Trapping

Hunting and trapping are allowed in wilderness. They are not a common activity in Bristlecone, but some hunting occurs in Goshute Canyon; all federal and state regulations apply.

- Personal, non-commercial trapping is permitted, subject to applicable State and Federal laws and regulations. A trapping license is required by the State of Nevada to hunt or trap any furbearers. Pursuant to the Wilderness Act, access to traps would be limited to foot or horseback. Commercial trapping is prohibited in wilderness areas.

- 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 within the 14 days or will be subject to removal.
- Commercial Outfitter and Guiding are authorized by permit.

Trails and Routes

Hiking to the summit of Heusser Peak in Bristlecone Wilderness is a current recreational activity. 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, poses an unacceptable public safety hazard, 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. As necessary, BLM appropriate land use authorization or right-of-ways would be obtained.

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. Recommend 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.
- 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, 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 (RMP FP-5, 9).

- 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.

Vegetation Management

Restoration of Vegetation

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.

The goal of prescribed fire is to make conditions possible for natural fire to return to the wilderness. Prescribed fire could be used to reestablish the natural role of fire in the ecosystem, as described in BLM Manual 6340, Section 1.6.C.7.c. Both of the following conditions must be met prior to approving prescribed fire in a wilderness area:

- The natural role of fire cannot be returned solely by reliance on wildfire, or, relying on wildfires might create unacceptable risks to life, property, or natural resources outside the wilderness; and
- The use of fire or other fuel reduction treatments outside of wilderness is not sufficient to reduce the risks from wildfire within the wilderness to life, property, or natural resources outside the wilderness.

Any consideration of restoration treatments must include a requirement for post-treatment monitoring to determine the success of the objectives and fire effects on values (Miller, C., 2005).

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 within or adjacent to wilderness areas include, but are not limited to Bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), Canadian thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*), Scotch thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*), Water Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) and cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*). The potential exists for further infestations of these and other species from surrounding areas.

The Bristlecone and Goshute Canyon Wilderness areas 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.

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. Subsequent to an MRA, 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 or US Fish and Wildlife Service.
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.
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.

Wildlife Management

The overall goal of wildlife management in wilderness areas is to protect, preserve, and where appropriate, enhance habitat to retain the wilderness areas' natural character at the time of designation, and to support healthy wildlife populations. To facilitate these efforts, the current BLM-Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU 6300-NV-930-0402(2012)), as amended, would be adhered to. Under this agreement, NDOW annually submits a letter of proposed projects. In addition, the forthcoming Nevada and Northern

California Greater Sage – Grouse Land Use Plan Amendment and EIS guidance would be adopted.

According to the BLM-NDOW MOU (2012), wildlife relocation 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 reduce by human influence. Additionally, NDOW may submit requests for use of helicopter in wilderness areas in order to retrieve data from radio telemetry collars which have dropped off study animals or from animals that have died.

While NDOW has the 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 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 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 April 15 - July 15. If disturbance occurs during this time, a bird nest survey must be completed one week prior to disturbance.
- Raptors – within a half-mile of active raptor nests and one mile from eagle nests from April 15 – July 30; unless the nest has been determined to be inactive for at least 5 years.
- Big Game – within big game calving/fawning/kidding grounds from April 15 – June 30.

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. For requests, involving only the management of a wildlife population(s) and/or that involve no 4(c) prohibited actions, the MRA and a letter of authorization with associated terms and conditions would suffice as approval.

Wildlife-Related Facilities

Water developments for wildlife in wilderness would only be considered to replace existing natural sources lost because 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 would be considered outside of wilderness first.

The BLM Wilderness Specialist would work with the requesting agency to complete a MRA to evaluate the agency's request. An environmental analysis, MRA and associated decision document would be needed for proposals involving ground disturbance, or 4(c) prohibited actions (e.g. motorized or mechanized use).

There are two wildlife-related developments in Goshute Canyon Wilderness. The BLM installed three gabion/fish ladders on Goshute Creek in 1976 to support the Bonneville cutthroat trout population; two are located in the wilderness.

Wild Horse Management

The goal within a Herd Management Area (HMA) is to “maintain and manage healthy, self-sustaining wild horse herds ... within appropriate management levels ... to ensure a thriving natural ecological balance” (RMP, 2008b). Management of wild horses is accomplished by activity plans created by the BLM Wild Horse & Burro Specialist. The Triple B HMA overlaps 67% of the Goshute Canyon Wilderness. Bristlecone Wilderness does not overlap a HMA. There are no burros in the two wilderness areas.

For wilderness, if the MRA results in motorized means for horse gathers, aircraft, including helicopters, may be used to survey, capture, and monitor wild horses. During gathers, helicopters are likely to fly over wilderness and herd horses across them. However, aircraft may not land inside wilderness boundaries except in cases of emergency or by approval from the Ely District Manager. However, BLM and contract personnel participating in the gathers may drive along access and cherry-stemmed roads to accomplish their objectives. Otherwise on-the-ground horse management activities would be accomplished on foot or by the use of pack stock. In cases where impacts to springs and riparian systems result from wild horses, mitigation measures may be employed to prevent further degradation or to restore wilderness character.

1.5. 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 2 contains a consolidated list of legislatively-required restrictions 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 3 contains BLM wilderness management decisions not specifically related to use regulation.

All wilderness actions are subject to a MRA, to determine the action necessary. Any action authorizing the use of an action prohibited in Section 4(c) of the Wilderness Act would require site-specific NEPA analysis (see BLM Manual 6340 Part 1.6 D. 3.).

Table 2. Proposed Wilderness Use Restrictions.

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 MRA.
Use is authorized	Only 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 within the 14 days or will be subject to removal.
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 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	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 trash.
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 MRA for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Wildlife management projects b. Emergency stabilization and rehabilitation c. Weed control projects
Use requires authorization	The scientific study of paleontological resources, such as vertebrate fossils, or cultural resources, such as archaeological and historic sites and/or artifacts, will be permitted through a fieldwork authorization in instances where mitigation measures are determined to be necessary.
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	The Wilderness Act allows some commercial services to be permitted "to the extent necessary ... for realizing the recreational or other wilderness purposes of the area" (Section 4(d)(6)). BLM would continue to issue SRPs to the following entities as long as they operate within the terms and conditions of their SRP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 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 b. Entities whose mission includes the promotion of wilderness ethics, <i>Leave No Trace</i>, or environmental education, and c. 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 MRA 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 and preserve; or enhance wilderness character.
Use requires authorization	Wildlife management proposals may be authorized subject to a MRA.
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	Motorized vehicles, helicopter landings and trap sites would not be constructed in wilderness during wild horse gathers.
Use is prohibited	Unattended personal property not associated with an active campsite may not be left.
Use is prohibited	Traditional geocaching and letterboxing activities are prohibited.
Use is prohibited	Collection of any resource for the purpose of commercial sale is prohibited.
Use is prohibited	Communication sites.
Use is prohibited	Land Use Authorizations (Rights-of-Way, Permits, Leases, Easements, and Unauthorized Uses).

Use is prohibited	Ground-based military maneuvers and associated activities are prohibited except in support of emergency actions, as previously described.
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Table 3. Proposed BLM Wilderness Management Decisions.

<p>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.</p>
<p>BLM would authorize the livestock-related administrative access according to guidelines defined in Livestock Management section of the WMP. Prior to a motorized, mechanized vehicle or equipment entry, a MRA must be conducted and a BLM letter of authorization must be issued to the permittee for the conditions described below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Salt and mineral supplement may be delivered into wilderness areas via motor vehicle in quantities sufficient to ensure only one motorized entry annually. Subsequent distribution of stockpiled salt would be accomplished by foot, horseback, or pack stock. 2. Motorized and mechanized inspection and maintenance for troughs and pipelines in Goshute Canyon Wilderness may occur one time per year prior to livestock entry. Maintenance would be identified or accomplished during inspection. For large repair or reconstruction projects, such as pipeline or trough replacement, a one-time motorized equipment entry under this plan would be authorized in conjunction with a MRA to determine the equipment necessary. 3. Fence repair or replacement would be accomplished by foot or pack stock as there is little fence inside the wilderness boundary. The use of the motorized vehicles or equipment may be allowed for replacement or repair to damage otherwise unpreventable through routine inspection and maintenance (i.e. destruction by wildfire, or extensive damage from livestock, wild horses and/or wildlife). It is anticipated that damage which would require the use of motorized equipment or vehicles would not occur frequently.
<p>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.</p>
<p>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 or wilderness education, and 3) do not degrade wilderness character. Enterprises currently meeting these criteria include commercial outfitting and guide services, and therapy pack trips.</p>

BLM would not place signs and structures in wilderness unless a MRA determines that they are the minimum necessary for administration of the area as wilderness.
BLM would not maintain, repair, or enhance any routes along old roadbeds 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.
Repairs to resource damage caused by suppression activities 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 MRA, site-specific NEPA analysis and District Manager approval: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Install temporary emergency structures (i.e., fences, hydrologic monitoring devices). b. Install erosion control (i.e., straw bales, wattles, mulch). c. Repair or replace burned or damaged facilities (i.e., fences, boundary signs, trails). d. Stabilize and mitigate post-fire related degradation to cultural and historic sites and resources.
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.
BLM would treat surface disturbances subject to a MRA, using methods that have the least impact to wilderness character.

1.6 Monitoring Program

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), 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 and trend 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, in consultation with Native American Tribes and the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office, 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, with the exception of archaeological reports, photographs, and data would be maintained in the official file for each wilderness at the BLM Ely District Offices. All archaeological information is considered proprietary and confidential and will be kept in a separate file for each wilderness area at the BLM Ely District cultural records repository. Monitoring will also provide wilderness managers with more complete information, which will improve the evaluation of future proposed activities.

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.

1.7. Plan Evaluation

The WMP will be revised when the management actions or a change in the existing situation no longer meets wilderness management objectives. If the decision were made to revise this plan, it would be accomplished with public input. 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.

1.8. 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.

Ongoing Activities

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

- Visitor use monitoring
- Resource condition monitoring
- Wilderness character monitoring

Future Activities

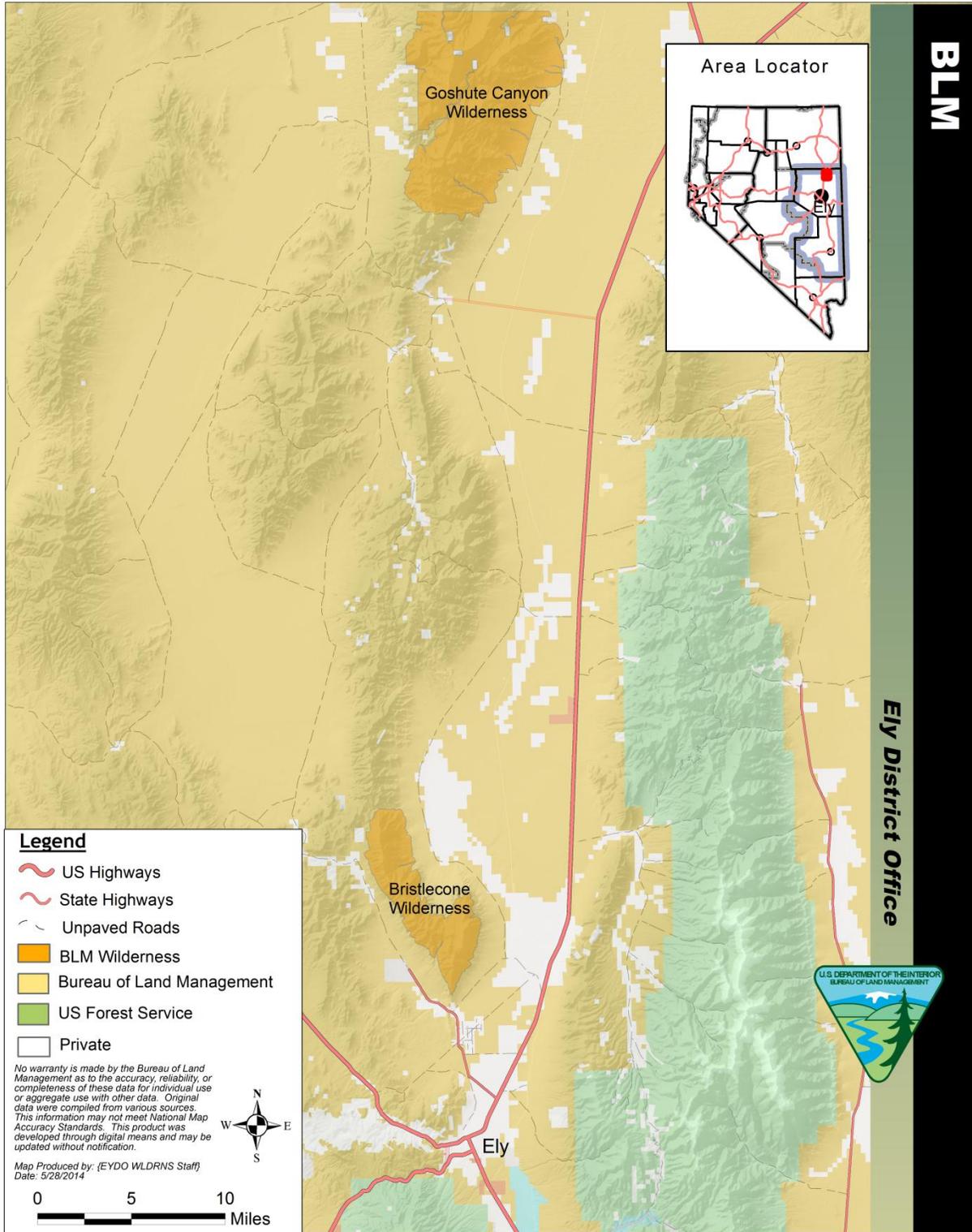
- Reclamation:
 - Vehicle routes not used for authorized administrative access
 - Undesirable or highly impacted campsites
 - Unauthorized vehicular impacts
- Signs:
 - Vehicle access points
 - Off-site information signs
- Modify or remove unused or unnecessary livestock developments or other structures
- 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 Special Recreation Permits to licensed outfitters and guides for hunting, fishing, and other commercial and group activities
- Subsequent Environmental Analysis

Subsequent Environmental Analysis

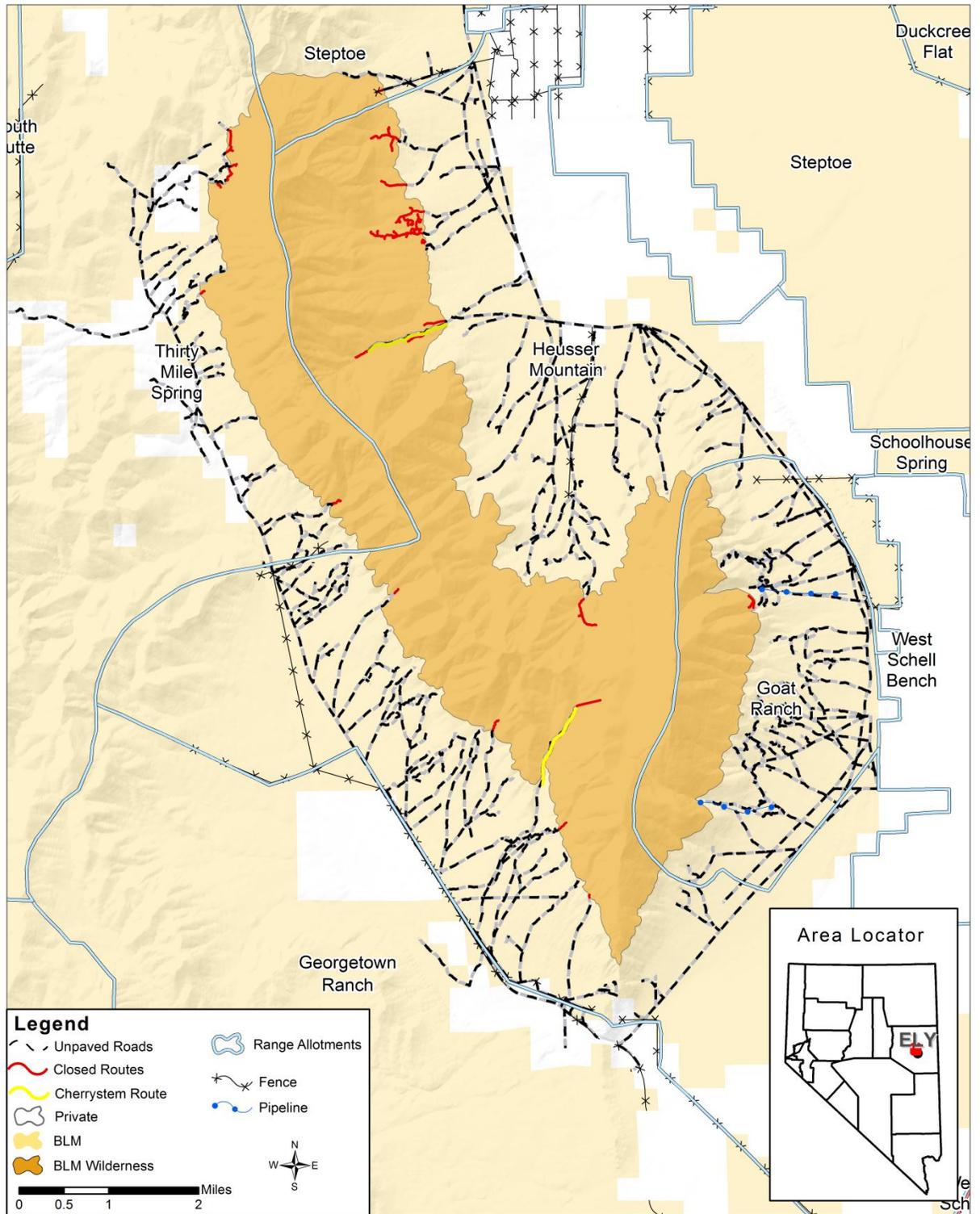
If in the future, conditions change sufficiently to warrant subsequent actions not already addressed in this WMP, additional environmental analysis may be required.

Appendix A. Maps

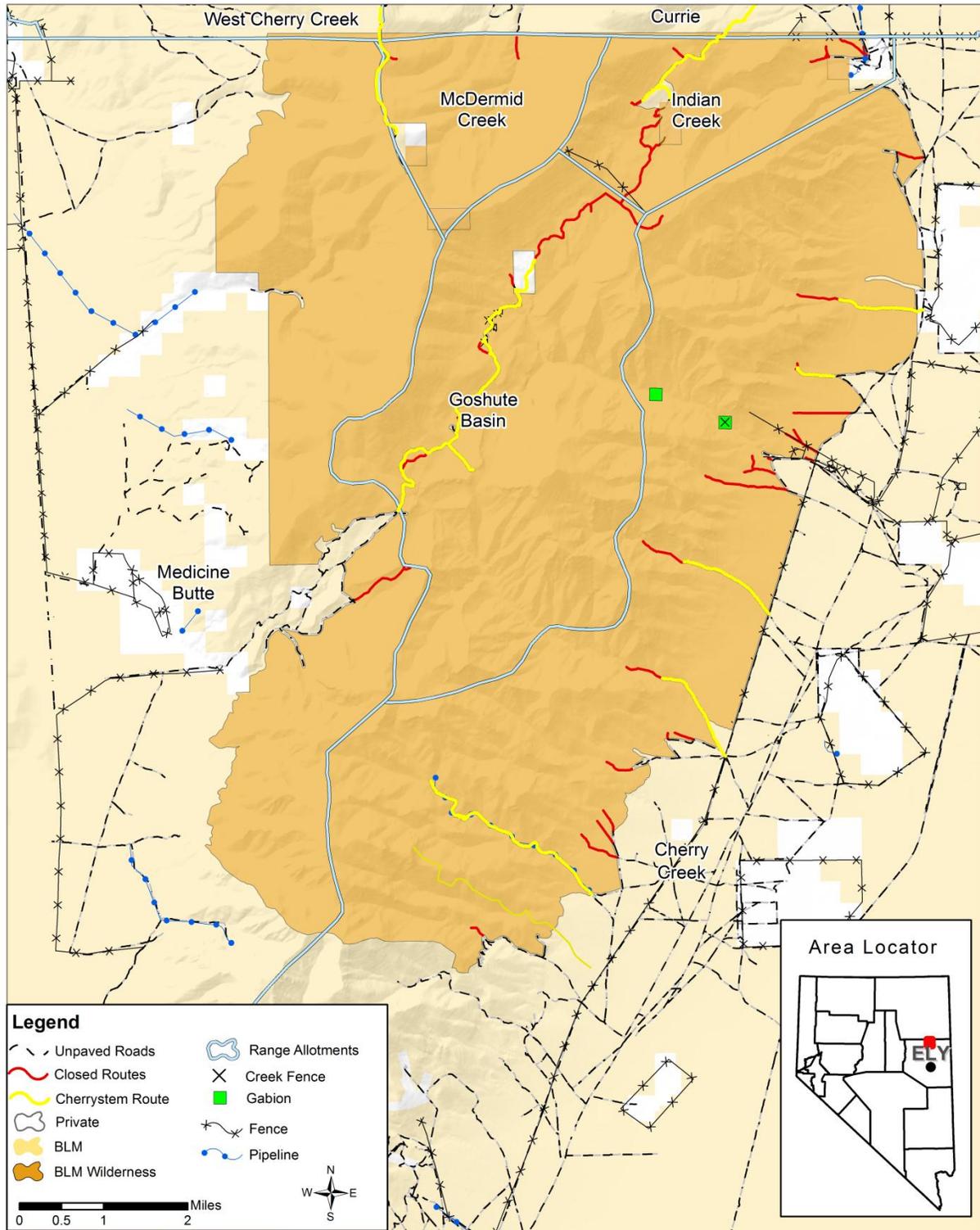
MAP 1: OVERVIEW WILDERNESS



MAP 2: CURRENT CONDITIONS BRISTLECONE WILDERNESS



MAP 3: CURRENT CONDITIONS GOSHUTE CANYON WILDERNESS



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