



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Wells Field Office
3900 East Idaho Street
Elko, Nevada 89801

http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko_field_office.html

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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT BARTON ALLOTMENT GRAZING PERMIT RENEWAL DOI-BLM-NV-N030-2014-0010-EA

Based on the attached Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Barton Allotment Grazing Permit Renewal (DOI-BLM-NV-N030-2014-0010-EA) and supporting documents, I have determined that the alternatives described and analyzed in the EA, will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area. Therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

Context:

The alternatives put forth in this EA focus on livestock grazing management on approximately 3,216 acres of public land intermixed with approximately 2,663 acres of private land on the Barton Allotment located approximately 14 miles east of Jackpot, Nevada and just south of the Idaho border. The analysis of monitoring data in the 2014 Standards and Guidelines Assessment concluded that Standard 1 and 4 were met. Standard 3 was not met, but current livestock grazing management practices were not a causal factor. Current livestock grazing practices are considered to be in conformance with the guidelines. Standard 2 was not reviewed because there are no riparian or wetland sites on public ground within the allotment. Standard 5 was not reviewed because the allotment is not located within an HMA. The alternatives would result in the renewal of a livestock grazing permit which would allow the permittee to continue grazing livestock on public lands.

Intensity:

1) *Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse.*

The analysis identifies any beneficial or adverse impacts on vegetation, livestock grazing, invasive, non-native species, soils, wild horses, wildlife, special status species, threatened or endangered species, migratory birds, cultural resources and Native American concerns that may arise as a result of the proposed grazing permit renewal. Measures are incorporated to avoid or reduce adverse impacts from grazing, conserve habitat for the sensitive species, and identify and protect cultural resources.

2) *The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety.*

The alternatives will have no effect on public health or safety.

3) *Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farm lands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.*

There are no unique characteristics such as park lands, special recreation management areas, prime farm lands, wetlands, areas of critical environmental concern, wild and scenic rivers, designated wilderness or wilderness study areas in the allotment or that would possibly be affected by the alternatives.

4) *The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.*

In August of 2013 the BLM mailed a scoping letter to the livestock permittee and members of the interested public explaining our intent to proceed with the Barton permit renewal. Three comments were received. A draft standards and guidelines assessment was released for public comment in March 2014. One comment was received. The EA was released for a 30-day public review period. One comment was received. Based on the number and contents of comments received from the public, the effects on the quality of the human environment are not considered highly controversial.

5) *The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.*

Possible effects are neither highly uncertain nor do they include unique or unknown risks. The analysis is based on monitoring information, and all livestock grazing authorizations are subject to applicable procedures to prevent undue environmental harm and risk.

6) *The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.*

The ten-year grazing permit includes terms and conditions to protect resources from significant adverse effects. This action does not make any commitments for BLM approval for any future actions beyond those outlined in the alternatives. All future proposed livestock management actions not described in the alternatives would continue to be subject to further consideration in accordance with BLM grazing and NEPA regulations and policies.

7) *Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.*

All resources are evaluated for cumulative impacts in the EA, and no significant impacts are identified. As a standard procedure, cumulative impacts would continue to be subject to further review as new projects are proposed, and on a site-specific basis.

8) *The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the NRHP or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historic resources.*

There are currently no known sites within the Barton Allotment which are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The alternatives are unlikely to cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historic resources.

9) *The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the ESA of 1973.*

