



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Elko District Office

3900 East Idaho Street Elko, Nevada 89801

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

In Reply Refer To:

4100/4700 (NVE01000)

FEB 03 2014

Dear Permittees and Interested Parties:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Elko District Office, has prepared a revised version of the Management and Mitigation for Drought Impacted Rangelands Environmental Assessment (EA) previously released last spring. This version of the EA is similar to the previously released EA; however, the revised includes vegetation and water "triggers" that will help facilitate management in areas where drought and grazing is negatively impacting rangelands.

The effects of drought are often times far reaching, impacting the environment and economy of an area. This EA focuses primarily on the environmental impacts of drought. Specific impacts depend on drought severity but often include:

- Lack of forage and drinking water
- Decreased vigor and production of plants
- Damage to plant species
- Increased wind and water erosion of soils
- Reduction and degradation of fish and wildlife habitat
- Increased loss of wildlife, wild horses, and livestock
- Increased number and severity of fires

The EA analyzes a range of Drought Response Actions that would be used to mitigate the effects of drought and to address emergency situations for grazing management, wild horse management, wildlife needs, riparian resource concerns, and a variety of other resources. These actions include reductions in livestock grazing duration; changes in livestock season of use; changes in livestock management practices; targeted grazing of monotypic annual plant communities; temporary changes in kind or class of livestock; wild horse removals; temporary water hauls; temporary fencing; and partial or complete closures of allotments.

The EA may be viewed online at www.blm.gov/rv5c. If you do not have access to the internet, a printed or Compact Disc version may be obtained from the EDO at your request. A 15-day public review period for the EA will close **February 17, 2014**. For information about the EA please contact Chris Morris at 775-753-0200 for the Tuscarora Field Office; or Aaron Mier at 775-753-0200 for the Wells Field Office. Send questions about the EA to the Elko District Office, 3900 East Idaho Street, Elko, NV 89801.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jill Silvey

Jill Silvey
District Manager
Elko District BLM