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

Preliminary Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-NV-L020-2012-0030-EA
August 22, 2014

Trilobata Spring Redevelopment

Wilson Creek Allotment
Dry Lake Valley Watershed
Lincoln County, Nevada

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Ely District Office
Phone: (775) 289-1800
Fax: (775) 289-1910

1.0 Introduction 3
1.1 Background Information 3
1.2 Purpose and Need: 3
1.3 Relationship to Planning 3
1.4 Relationship to Statues, Regulations, or Other Plans 4
1.5 Tiering 4
1.6 Scoping and Public Involvement and Issues 5
2.0 Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives 5
2.1 Proposed Action 5
2.1.1 Migratory Birds 5
2.1.2 Noxious and Invasive Non-Native Species 6
2.1.3 Construction Monitoring 6
2.2 No Action Alternative 6
2.3 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated From Detailed Analysis 6
3.0 Affected Environment 6
3.1 Resources/Concerns Considered for Analysis 6
3.2 Rangeland Standards and Health, including Vegetative and Wetland/Riparian Resources 10
3.3 Soil Resources 11
4.0 Environmental Effects 11
4.1 Rangeland Standards and Health, including Vegetative Resources and Wetland/Riparian Resources 11
4.1.1 Proposed Action 11
4.1.2 No Action Alternative 11
4.2 Soil Resources 12
4.2.1 Proposed Action 12
4.2.2 No Action Alternative 12
4.2 Cumulative Effects 12
4.2.1 Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions 13
4.2.1.1 Past Actions 13
4.2.1.2 Present Actions 13
4.2.1.3 Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions 13
4.2.2 Cumulative Effect Summary 13

4.2.2.1 Rangeland Standards and Health, including Vegetative Resources and Riparian/Wetland Resources 13
4.2.2.2 Soil Resources 14
5.0 Tribes, Individuals, Organizations, or Agencies Consulted 15
6.0. List of Preparers 16
7.0 References, Glossary and Acronyms 17
7.1 References Cited 17
7.2 Acronyms and Definitions 17
Figure 1: Location Map 18
Figure 2: Pipeline and Trough at Trilobata Spring, 2012 19
Figure 3: Trilobata Spring, 2012 19
Figure 4: Proposed Riparian Exclosure and Pipeline 20
Appendix I: Standard Operating Procedures 21
Appendix II: Risk Assessment for Noxious & Invasive Weeds 23

1.0 Introduction

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to analyze the environmental effects of the proposed Trilobata Springs Redevelopment, exclosure fencing, associated pipeline and trough. The EA is a site-specific analysis of potential effects that could result from the implementation of the proposed action or alternatives. The EA assists the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in project planning and ensuring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and in making a determination as to whether any significant impacts could result from the analyzed actions. "Significance" is defined by NEPA and is found in Chapter 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §§1508.27. This EA provides evidence for determining whether impacts may be significant. If it is found that the impacts are not significant a "Finding of No Significant Impact" (FONSI) will be prepared. If impacts are found to be significant an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be prepared for the project to continue.

1.1 Background Information

The proposed project are occurs within the Muleshoe Use Area of the Wilson Creek Allotment (01201), approximately 35 air miles northwest of Pioche, Nevada. The legal description of the project is as follows: southwest quarter of Section 21 T05N R65E (see Figure 1). Trilobata Spring (550325) was developed in 1963 for the purpose of livestock watering. Records show that at one time as many as three troughs were placed on the site. Today the spring development has deteriorated to the point that it no longer functions (see Figure 2). Little domestic livestock use occurs in the area due to the expansion of Pinyon and Juniper Woodlands. Increased wild horse and elk use have negatively impacted the riparian area requiring the spring to be redeveloped and protected (see Figure 3).

1.2 Purpose and Need:

BLM's purpose for the riparian exclosure fence, water pipeline and trough is to improve and restore the health and functionality of Trilobata Spring while still allowing access to a dependable water source for wild horses and wildlife and to further enhance the achievement of the Mojave Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council standard for riparian and wetland sites.

The need for the proposed action is defined by the lack of desirable conditions at the Trilobata Spring riparian area due to excessive use by wild horses.

1.3 Relationship to Planning

This EA is in conformance with the Ely District Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP, 2008), which states the following for desired range of conditions:

"….In addition to achieving riparian proper functioning condition, composition, structure, and cover of riparian vegetation will occur within capabilities of the site. Ground cover and species composition will be appropriate to the site (page 32)."

- VEG-23 states, "Promote vegetation structure and diversity that is appropriate and effective in controlling erosion, stabilizing stream banks, healing channel incisions, shading water, filtering sediment, and dissipating energy, in order to provide for stable water flow and bank stability (page 33)."

- VEG-24 states, "Focus management actions on uses and activities that allow for the protection, maintenance, and restoration of riparian habitat (page 33)."

- WL-18 states, "Restore natural water sources (i.e., springs and seeps to increase water availability through restoration of riparian habitats and proper livestock and wild horse management (p.36)."

1.4 Relationship to Statues, Regulations, or Other Plans

The project is in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, Executive Orders, and county public land plans including:

- The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4347, January 1, 1970, as amended 1975 and 1994)
- The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. §§ 1701-1782, October 21, 1976, as amended 1978, 1984, 1986, 1988, 1990-1992, 1994 and 1996)
- Clean Water Act of 1977
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 703-712, July 3, 1918, as amended 1936, 1960, 1968, 1969, 1974, 1978, 1986 and 1989)
- The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. §§ 1531-1544, December 28, 1973, as amended 1976-1982, 1984, and 1988)
- Executive Order 13186: Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds (2001)
- Mojave Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Standards and Guidelines.
- Lincoln County Elk Management Plan (1999)

1.5 Tiering

This document is tiered to the Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/FEIS) released in November 2007. Should a determination be made that implementation of the proposed or alternative actions would not result in "significant environmental impacts" or "significant environmental impacts beyond those already addressed in the RMP/FEIS", a FONSI would be prepared to document that determination.

1.6 Scoping and Public Involvement and Issues

The Trilobata Spring Development proposal was internally scoped by the Schell Field Office interdisciplinary (ID) team on April 16, 2012 to determine preliminary issues with the proposed action and alternatives. Preliminary issues identified were effects of the proposed action and alternatives to water resources and cultural concerns.

The preliminary EA was presented to the Schell ID team on June 23, 2014 for review and updates as needed. No additional comments or concerns arose from this meeting.

Tribal coordination letters were mailed on June 27, 2014. No comments were received.

2.0 Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives

2.1 Proposed Action

The proposed action is to construct an exclosure fence around the Trilobata Spring area, install a spring box and/or other collection system at the spring source, and to install a pipeline (approximately 100 feet) to transport water to one watering trough outside the fenced area (see Figure 4). The installation of the spring box and/or other collection system at the spring source is to provide water outside the exclosure for wild horses and wildlife.

The exclosure would be less than one acre in size. The fence would be a standard four-strand barbed wire. White flagging would be attached to the top wire between posts during construction to alert wildlife and wild horses to the existence of the new fence. The fence would be built to BLM specifications and standard operating procedures as outlined in the District Fenceline Environmental Assessment No. EA-NV-040-5-27. Fence construction may involve the use of pick-up trucks, backhoes and other equipment as necessary.

The springbox and/or collection system, discharge pipe and trough would be designed and installed to meet standard BLM specifications. Spring development and site cleanup could include the use of equipment (i.e. backhoe-loader tractors) as well as pick-up trucks. Some pinion and juniper trees may need to be removed in the construction of the project. Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) that would be followed for this proposed action are listed in Appendix I.

The project is proposed for completion during the fall following completion of the NEPA process. Maintenance responsibilities would be assigned to the BLM.

2.1.1 Migratory Birds

The following design features would apply to avoid impacts to wildlife:

- Construction is not anticipated to occur during the migratory bird nesting period, from

April 15 to July 15. If construction is necessary during that period, a survey of the construction site would be completed prior to construction by a wildlife biologist in order to identify active nests so that they may be avoided.

- Trees identified for removal will be checked for raptor nests. If a nest is present, the tree containing the nest will not be removed even if the nest was not used during the past nesting season.
- White flagging to the top wire between posts during construction to alert wildlife to the new fence, would prevent impacts.
- Wildlife escape ramps will be installed in the trough.

2.1.2 Noxious and Invasive Non-Native Species

The stipulations listed in the Weed Risk Assessment (see Appendix II) would be followed when construction of the fence, pipeline, and trough occurs.

2.1.3 Construction Monitoring

The project inspector (PI) or representative from the BLM would make periodic site visits to check on compliance of specifications and progress during the construction phase. Upon completion of the project, a final inspection would be made to ensure construction and installation specifications were met. Periodic compliance checks would be made following project completion to ensure the project remains in proper functioning condition.

2.2 No Action Alternative

Under the no action alternative, the proposed fence and associated water pipeline and trough would not be rebuilt. Without the proposed fence and redevelopment of the spring, and wild horses would continue to have access to the spring, resulting in continuation of trampling and heavy use to the spring source.

2.3 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated From Detailed Analysis

Building the exclosure fence without redeveloping the trough and pipeline was considered as an alternative method for achieving management objectives. However, it was eliminated from detailed analysis because of the limited water resources within the Wilson Creek Allotment and the Silver King Herd Management Area. This alternative would not provide for adequate wild horse distribution throughout the area and, or protect the water source from further degradation therefore, does not meet the purpose and need for the project.

3.0 Affected Environment

3.1 Resources/Concerns Considered for Analysis

The following items have been evaluated for the potential for significant impacts to occur, either

directly, indirectly, or cumulatively, due to implementation of the proposed action. Consideration of some of these items is to ensure compliance with laws, statutes or Executive Orders that impose certain requirements upon all Federal actions. Other items are relevant to the management of public lands in general, and to the Ely District BLM in particular.

Table 1: Resources/Concerns Considered and Rationale for Detailed Analysis or Dismissal from Detailed Analysis

Resource/Concern Considered	Issue(s) Analyzed ? (Y/N)	Rationale for Dismissal from Analysis or Issue(s) Requiring Detailed Analysis
Air Quality	No	The proposed action would not measurably affect air quality in the project analysis area or in Lincoln County. Implementation and construction activities could create ephemeral dust during fence post and spring box placement. Detailed analysis is not required.
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)	No	Resource not present in the project area.
Cultural Resources	No	No historic properties were present per the completed Cultural Resources Inventory Needs Assessment #8111 NANV040FY13-028. Detailed analysis is not required.
Environmental Justice	No	No minority or low-income groups would be disproportionately affected by health or environmental effects. Detailed analysis is not required.
Fish and Wildlife	No	The spring is within mule deer crucial winter habitat (Odocoileus hemionus). Many other species of mammals, birds and reptiles may use the riparian area. Some wildlife may be displaced during construction, but this would be a short-term effect. Design features that have been incorporated are sufficient to mitigate any potential impacts to fish and wildlife. Detailed analysis is not required.
Floodplains	No	Resource is not present in the project area.
Forest Health	No	The proposed action would remove a minimal number of trees resulting in negligible effects to forest health and the availability of forest resources. Detailed analysis is not required.
Grazing Uses	No	Livestock rarely use the project area. No impacts are expected from the reconstruction and maintenance of this project.
Lands and Realty	No	Resource is not present in the project area.

Resource/Concern Considered	Issue(s) Analyzed ? (Y/N)	Rationale for Dismissal from Analysis or Issue(s) Requiring Detailed Analysis
Migratory Birds	No	No construction from either the proposed action or the no action alternative is anticipated during the migratory bird nesting period, from April 15 to July 15. If construction is necessary during that period, nest surveys would be completed prior to construction by a wildlife biologist in order to avoid nests. Trees containing raptor nests will not be removed. Detailed analysis is not required.
Mineral Resources	No	There would be no impacts to minerals resources. Detailed analysis is not required.
Native American Religious Concerns	No	No concerns were identified during coordination.
Noxious and Invasive Non-Native Species	No	Hoary cress is located within one mile of the project area. A weed risk assessment (WRA) conducted for this project (see Appendix II) and mitigation measures described in the WRA would help minimize the spread of noxious and invasive species. Detailed analysis is not required.
Paleontological Resources	No	Currently, there are no identified resources within project area.
Prime or Unique Farmlands	No	Resource is not present in the project area.
Rangeland Standards and Health, including Vegetative Resources	Yes	Detailed analysis is provided below.
Recreation Uses	No	The proposed project is adjacent to the Silver State OHV Trail (SST). The proposed pipeline and trough will minimize water collection on the portion of the SST that runs alongside the project area during the dry months of the year; which will improve road conditions for OHV users. However, portions of the trail would still be limiting two-wheel drive vehicles. Detailed analysis is not required.
Social and Economic Values	No	There would be no impacts to social or economic values. Detailed analysis is not required.
Soil Resources	Yes	Detailed analysis is provided below.

Resource/Concern Considered	Issue(s) Analyzed ? (Y/N)	Rationale for Dismissal from Analysis or Issue(s) Requiring Detailed Analysis
Special Status Animal Species other than those listed or proposed by the FWS as Threatened or Endangered	No	Special status bird species including golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos), ferruginous hawk (Buteo regalis), and loggerhead shrike (Lanius ludovicianus) may be present within or near the project area. However, adherence to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act as discussed above will avoid impacts to the aforementioned species. Trees containing nests will not be removed. Due to the lack of riparian vegetation and the high density of trees at Trilobata Spring, sage grouse (Centrocercus urophasianus) would not utilize this riparian area for brood rearing. The area around the spring is classified as low value habitat for sage grouse by NDOW and BLM. Detailed analysis is not required.
Special Status Plant Species other than those listed or proposed by the FWS as Threatened or Endangered	No	Resource is not present in the project area.
FWS Listed or proposed for listing Threatened or Endangered Species	No	No federally listed or proposed species are present in the project area.
Visual Resource Management (VRM)	No	Project lies within VRM class III: This project will by definition: Partially retain the existing character of the landscape. Change allowed: moderate. Activities may attract the attention of the casual observer but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. However, every attempt would be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements of line, form, texture and color. In addition, vertical mulching and seeding will lessen the contrast of the disturbance. Detailed analysis is not required.
Wastes, Hazardous or Solid	No	The proposed action would not result in the creation of hazardous or solid wastes. Detailed analysis is not required.
Water Quality, Drinking/Ground	No	No water within the project area is used for domestic or drinking beneficial uses and the proposed project would not affect water quality. Detailed analysis is not required.

Resource/Concern Considered	Issue(s) Analyzed ? (Y/N)	Rationale for Dismissal from Analysis or Issue(s) Requiring Detailed Analysis
Water Resources	No	Water resources for the purpose of this EA are defined as surface and subsurface water sources, water rights, and use of water that occurs in the proposed project area. The only water source, water right, and permitted use of water in the project area is associated with Permit 2315 described in the background of this EA. BLM would work with water right holder and protect private property rights associated with the water right. The proposed project would not affect existing or pending water rights for Trilobata Spring or within the project area. Continued use of the project area in accordance with BLM management objectives for the grazing allotments and potential changes to the permitted use of water within the allotment is not expected to lead to a measureable change in the surface and subsurface water sources, water rights, and quantity of water that occurs in the project area. Detailed analysis is not required.
Wetland/Riparian Resources	Yes	Detailed analysis is provided below.
Wilderness	No	Resource not present in project area.
Lands with Wilderness Characteristics	No	Resource not present in project area.
Wild Horses	No	The project area is within the Silver King Wild Horse Herd Management Area (HMA). The trough location outside the fence would provide water for wild horses. Temporary displacement of wild horses is possible during construction but would have a negligible effect in the long-term. Detailed analysis is not required.
Wild and Scenic Rivers	No	Resource is not present in project area.

3.2 Rangeland Standards and Health, including Vegetative and Wetland/Riparian Resources

Within the project area, upland plant communities are dominated by pinyon pine (*Pinus monophylla*), Utah juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*), Fremont's mahonia (*Mahonia fremontii*), and cliffrose (*Purshia stansburiana*) which occur extensively throughout mid-elevations in this area.

Due the severe overuse of the spring site by an excessive wild horse population little riparian plant species exist. Riparian species including rushes and sedges could likely colonize the area with sufficient recovery times and the removal of wild horses. However facultative species such as rabbits foot grass (*Polypogon sp.*) are likely to be the potential for the spring due to the drought prone climate of the area.

3.3 Soil Resources

Soil in the analysis area formed from residuum and colluvium derived from limestone and dolomite parent materials. Surface textures tend to be coarse in the range of extremely cobbly loam and soil profile chemistry calcareous. Surface horizon textural classes composition is approximately 45 percent sand, 42 percent silt, and 13 percent clay. Water infiltration and permeability rates are moderate. Average hillside slopes are about 40 percent.

Currently, excessive use by wild horses and wildlife has resulted in high amounts of bare ground accelerating the erosion rates around the spring. The spring is actively being excavated by the pawing action of the horses, resulting in the erosion of the hillside. Trampling of wet soils likely is creating a compaction layer that could reduce the productivity of the soils.

4.0 Environmental Effects

As required under NEPA and the regulations implementing NEPA, this section analyzes potential cumulative impacts from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions combined with the Proposed Action and alternatives within the area analyzed for impacts in Chapter 3 specific to the resources for which cumulative impacts may be anticipated. A cumulative impact is defined as "the impact which results from the incremental impact of the action, decision, or project when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time" (40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.7).

4.1 Rangeland Standards and Health, including Vegetative Resources and Wetland/Riparian Resources

4.1.1 Proposed Action

The proposed action would result in the removal of 0.1 acres of juniper trees to construct the riparian exclosure fence. Little riparian vegetation exists at the site and is not expected to be impacted by the installation of the head box and pipeline.

The proposed action would provide protection from wild horses at the spring source and may result in the establishment of riparian species in the future. The degree to which the riparian system recovers would be limited by the amount of water that is not diverted to the trough.

Overall, the proposed action would help the riparian area progress towards a proper functioning condition and progress towards meeting the rangeland health standards.

4.1.2 No Action Alternative

The project would not be constructed, so there would be no impacts to vegetative resources from the construction and installation of the fence and spring development as described above. However continued degradation of the riparian area would occur. Continued use by excessive wild horse numbers would prevent riparian plant species from establishing at the site.

4.2 Soil Resources

4.2.1 Proposed Action

Soil surface disturbance would occur to the width of the equipment used to bury the proposed pipeline including excavation and backfilling the trench for the pipe. Pipeline construction and installation of the water trough would disturb approximately 0.1 acres of land surface. This would temporarily compact the soil in these areas. Soil compaction may be reduced if the construction activities occur when the soil is dry. Construction could lead to temporary wind and/or water erosion in the exposed areas until vegetation re-establishes. These impacts would be negligible due to the small size of the exposed area. Indirect impacts could include soil compaction of upland soil around the new water site due to wild horse concentrations and trampling at the new water site.

Minor soil surface disturbance would occur as a result of vehicle travel necessary for construction of the proposed fence (about 0.2 acres). Maintenance of the fence and pipeline is expected to be completed by hand tools resulting in minimal impacts to soils in the future.

The exclusion of wild horses from the spring area would have beneficial affects to the soils within the exclosure by reducing erosion through increased vegetative ground cover and reduced soil compaction.

4.2.2 No Action Alternative

The project would not be constructed, so there would be no impacts to soil resources from the construction and maintenance of the fence and spring development as described above. Compaction of hydric soils and excavation of the spring would continue from the impacts of wild horse use at the spring.

4.2 Cumulative Effects

As required under NEPA and the regulations implementing NEPA, this section analyzes potential cumulative impacts from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions combined with the Proposed Action and alternatives within the area analyzed for impacts in Chapter 3 specific to the resources for which cumulative impacts may be anticipated. A cumulative impact is defined as “the impact which results from the incremental impact of the action, decision, or project when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time” (40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.7).

4.2.1 Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions

The Cumulative Effects Study Area (CESA) for the cumulative effects analysis is defined by the Muleshoe Valley Watershed.

4.2.1.1 Past Actions

Livestock grazing has a long history in the region dating back to the late 1800's. Throughout its history, livestock grazing has been characterized by localized areas of intense use. Hunting, trapping, wildlife viewing, wild horses and other activities have occurred on the watershed year round. OHV use has occurred on a variety of roads and two-tracks and the Silver State OHV Trail was designated in 2004 through the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act (LCCRDA). Range improvements have been installed in the Muleshoe Valley Watershed to improve grazing management including fencing and stockwater developments. Wildfires have occasionally occurred in the watershed.

4.2.1.2 Present Actions

Livestock grazing by both cattle and sheep occurs in the Muleshoe Valley Watershed. Hunting, trapping, wildlife viewing, wild horses and other activities occur in the watershed year round. OHV use primarily takes place along the Silver State OHV and consists of approximately 260 miles of established roads and trails. The Muleshoe Valley Watershed Analysis, which is an assessment of overall watershed health, is currently being conducted.

4.2.1.3 Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions

Livestock grazing, along with hunting, trapping, wildlife viewing, wild horses and other present land use activities will likely continue to occur at current levels. In addition, wild horse gathers are conducted periodically in order to try to achieve and maintain wild horse populations at the Appropriate Management Level. Wildfires are a natural part of the vegetative community present and are expected to continue to occur within the CESA.

4.2.2 Cumulative Effect Summary

4.2.2.1 Rangeland Standards and Health, including Vegetative Resources and Riparian/Wetland Resources

4.2.2.2.1 Proposed Action

It is anticipated that the proposed action, in combination with the past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions, would help restore at least a portion of the riparian area at Trilobata Spring and would provide for desired riparian and rangeland health conditions over the long term. The extent of riparian vegetation that would establish would be dependant upon the amount of water that is not collected in the springbox and redirected to the trough. In addition, upland species are likely to establish within the exclosure.

4.4.2.2.2 No Action

It is anticipated that the no action alternative in combination with the past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions, would allow the current conditions to continue. The health and functionality of Bailey Spring would likely not improve as it would by erecting the riparian exclosure and therefore not provide for improvement in the desired riparian and rangeland health conditions.

4.2.2.2 Soil Resources

4.2.2.2.1 Proposed Action

It is anticipated that the proposed action, in combination with the past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions, would encourage healthy and productive soil within the exclosure. Compaction would still occur outside the exclosure.

4.2.2.2.2 No Action

The current soil conditions would likely continue, which would include constant pressure, resulting in compaction on and around the spring site.

5.0 Tribes, Individuals, Organizations, or Agencies Consulted

A Tribal Coordination letters was sent on June 27, 2014 to the tribes listed below, notifying them of the proposed action and soliciting comments within 30 days of the date of the letter.

Name	Purpose & Authorities for Consultation or Coordination	Findings & Conclusions
Ely Shoshone Tribe	Tribal Consultation and Coordination	No comments were received
Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah	Tribal Consultation and Coordination	No comments were received
Duckwater Shoshone Tribe	Tribal Consultation and Coordination	No comments were received
Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation, Nevada-Utah	Tribal Consultation and Coordination	No comments were received

6.0. List of Preparers

Ben Noyes	Wild Horse and Burro Specialist
Ken Vicencio	Rangeland Resources, Vegetation, Soil, Water, Riparian/Wetlands, Floodplains, Air Quality
Chris McVicars	Noxious and Invasive, Non-Native Species
Amanda Thimmayya	Wildlife, Special Status Species, Migratory Birds
Nancy Herms	Wildlife, Special Status Species, Migratory Birds
Erin Rajala	Recreation
David McMullen	Recreation and Visual Resources
Jennifer Frederick-McGuire	Cultural and Paleontological Resources
Nicholas B. Pay	Cultural Resources
Elvis Wall	Native American Cultural Concerns
Melanie Peterson	Hazardous Materials, Safety
Dave Davis	Minerals
Andrea J. Cox	Writer/Editor, Environmental Justice

7.0 References, Glossary and Acronyms

7.1 References Cited

Floyd T, Elphick CS, Chisholm G, Mack K, Elston RG, Ammon EM, and Boone JD. 2007. Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Nevada. Reno: University of Nevada Press.

USDOI. 2007. Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan/ Final Environmental Impact Statement. U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. BLM/EL/PL-07/09+1793. DOI No. FES07-40. November 2007.

USDOI. 2008. Ely District Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan. U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. BLM/NV/EL/PL-GI08/25+1793.

USDOI, Bureau of Land Management. 2008. National Environmental Policy Act. Handbook H-1790-1.

USDOI, Bureau of Land Management. 1994. Guidelines for assessing and documenting cumulative impacts. WO-IB-94-310.

USDOI - BLM. 1997. Standards and Guidelines for Nevada's Northeastern Great Basin Area.

7.2 Acronyms and Definitions

BLM-Bureau of Land Management
CFR-Code of Federal Regulations
DR-Decision Record
EA-Environmental Assessment
EIS-Environmental Impact Statement
FLPMA-Federal Land Policy and Management Act
FMUD-Final Multiple Use Decision
FONSI-Finding of No Significant Impact
ID-Interdisciplinary
IM-Instructional Memorandum
Lentic – Still Water riparian systems
Lotic – Flowing Water riparian systems
NEPA-National Environmental Policy Act
RFFA-Reasonably Foreseeable Future Action
RMP-Resource Management Plan

Figure 1: Location Map

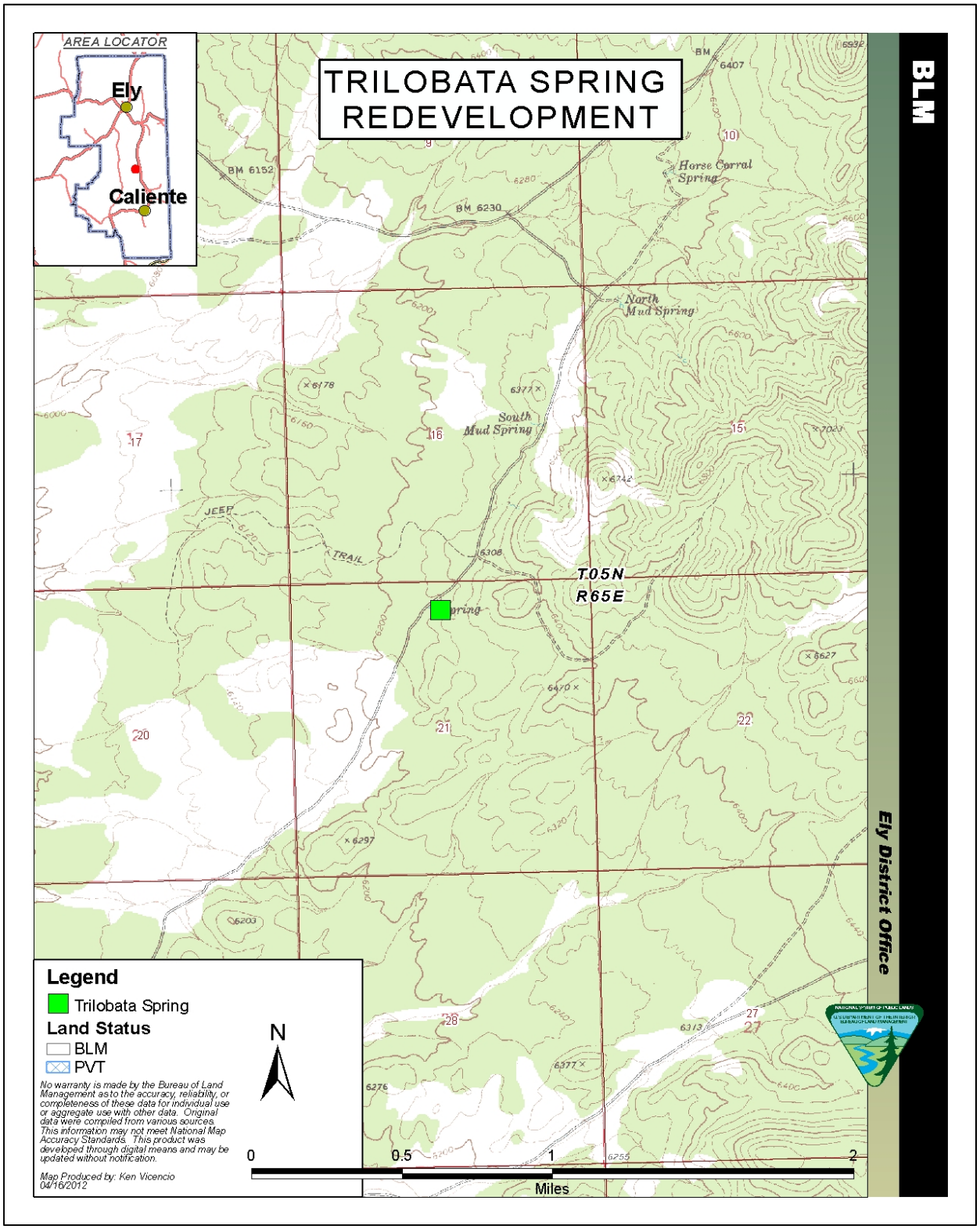
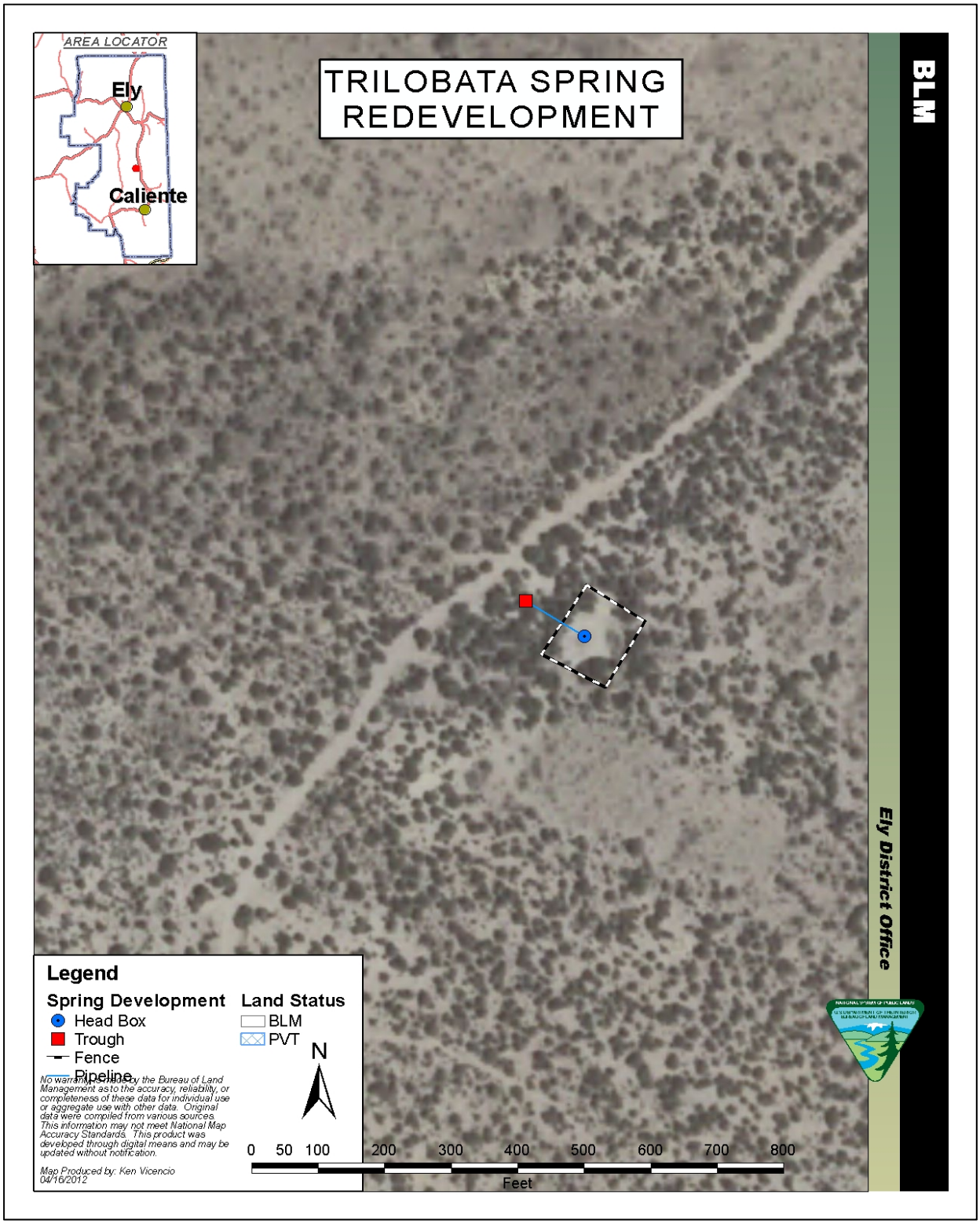


Figure 2: Pipeline and Trough at Trilobata Spring, 2012

Figure 3: Trilobata Spring, 2012

Figure 4: Proposed Riparian Exclosure and Pipeline



Appendix I: Standard Operating Procedures

The following SOP's that apply to the proposed action should be adhered to for the riparian fence project:

1. Removal of vegetation will be held to the minimum necessary for construction, access, and to provide for safety.

2. Construction activities will be limited to times when soils are not wet or saturated, to lessen soil compaction by equipment. In addition, construction activities may be delayed by the authorized officer due to severely dry conditions, to prevent unnecessary erosion of soil resources.

3. Vehicle travel shall only be permitted along the proposed fence line corridor during the construction phase. Access will be via existing roads and trails whenever possible. Where existing roads are not available, off road travel will be kept to the minimum necessary for construction.

4. White flagging will be tied at each wire stay for visibility to animals such as deer and sage grouse. These will remain for a time sufficient to allow animals to see the newly constructed fence.

5. Maximum corridor width of the fence line would be a total of 16 feet.

6. If the need to use, store, and/or dispose of hazardous materials arises, (which is not identified in this EA), the authorized person(s) constructing the project would notify and seek authorization from the BLM.

7. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(G) the holder of this authorization must notify the authorized officer by telephone, with written confirmation immediately upon discovery of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony (as defined at 43 CFR 10.2). Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4 (c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

8. All equipment and assorted materials associated with the construction of the project must be removed within 30 days after completion of the project. Project area cleanup will be accomplished by removing all refuse to an approved sanitary landfill.

9. Fence specifications for wildlife concerns will be strictly adhered to in the construction of this fence. These specifications are to be provided to the builder prior to construction.

10. The "no activity" period for all management actions in migratory bird habitat is from 4/15 to 7/15 unless a survey is done to determine no migratory bird breeding or nesting is occurring in the area. For any activity scheduled between 4/15 and 7/15 the following must take place:

The wildlife team will conduct breeding bird surveys to identify if migratory bird breeding or nesting is occurring in the area.

11. For sage grouse wintering grounds, disturbance should be avoided from November 1 to March 31.

12. Install wildlife escape ramps in all watering troughs, including temporary water haul facilities, and open storage tanks. Pipe the overflow away from the last water trough on an open system to provide water at ground level.

Appendix II: Risk Assessment for Noxious & Invasive Weeds

<u>Risk Assessment for Noxious & Invasive Weeds</u>
Trilobata Spring
Lincoln County, Nevada

On September 26, 2012 a Noxious & Invasive Weed Risk Assessment was completed for Trilobata Spring to build an exclosure fence in Lincoln County, NV.

The proposed action is to construct an exclosure fence around the Trilobata Spring area, install a springbox and/or other collection system at the spring source, and to install a pipeline (approximately 100 feet) to transport water to one watering trough outside the fenced area. The installation of the springbox and/or other collection system at the spring source is to provide water outside the exclosure for wildlife and wild horses.

The exclosure would be less than one acre in size. The fence would be a standard four-strand barbed wire. White flagging would be attached to the top wire between posts during construction to alert wildlife and wild horses to the existence of the new fence. The fence would be built to BLM specifications and standard operating procedures as outlined in the District Fenceline Environmental Assessment No. EA-NV-040-5-27. Fence construction may involve the use of pick-up trucks, backhoes and other equipment as necessary.

The springbox and/or collection system, discharge pipe and trough would be designed and installed to meet standard BLM specifications. Spring development and site cleanup could include the use of equipment (i.e. backhoe-loader tractors) as well as pick-up trucks.

The project is proposed for completion by summer/fall 2012. Maintenance responsibilities would be assigned to the BLM.

The project is located at (coordinates given in NAD 83, degrees minutes seconds):

N 39 17 08

W 114 41 36

No field weed surveys were completed for this project. Instead the Ely District weed inventory data were consulted. There is currently 1 inventoried weed infestation within three miles of the project area.

Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), Halogeton (*Halogeton glomeratus*), Russian Thistle (*Salsola kali*) and other un-documented species are also potentially scattered along roads in the area.

The project area was last inventoried for noxious weeds in 2007.

Factor 1 assesses the likelihood of noxious/invasive weed species spreading to the project area.

None (0)	Noxious/invasive weed species are not located within or adjacent to the project area. Project activity is not likely to result in the establishment of noxious/invasive weed species in the project area.
Low (1-3)	Noxious/invasive weed species are present in the areas adjacent to but not within the project area. Project activities can be implemented and prevent the spread of noxious/invasive weeds into the project area.
Moderate (4-7)	Noxious/invasive weed species located immediately adjacent to or within the project area. Project activities are likely to result in some areas becoming infested with noxious/invasive weed species even when preventative management actions are followed. Control measures are essential to prevent the spread of noxious/invasive weeds within the project area.
High (8-10)	Heavy infestations of noxious/invasive weeds are located within or immediately adjacent to the project area. Project activities, even with preventative management actions, are likely to result in the establishment and spread of noxious/invasive weeds on disturbed sites throughout much of the project area.

For this project, the factor rates as Low (1) at the present time. The nearest inventoried noxious/invasive weed is approximately 3 miles away, and is not located on any road that will be utilized for the project.

Factor 2 assesses the consequences of noxious/invasive weed establishment in the project area.

Low to Nonexistent (1-3)	None. No cumulative effects expected.
Moderate (4-7)	Possible adverse effects on site and possible expansion of infestation within the project area. Cumulative effects on native plant communities are likely but limited.
High (8-10)	Obvious adverse effects within the project area and probable expansion of noxious/invasive weed infestations to areas outside the project area. Adverse cumulative effects on native plant communities are probable.

This project rates as High (9) at the present time. If the spring were to become infested with noxious/invasive weeds, spread potential would be very high due to the high volume of use by wildlife and wild horses.

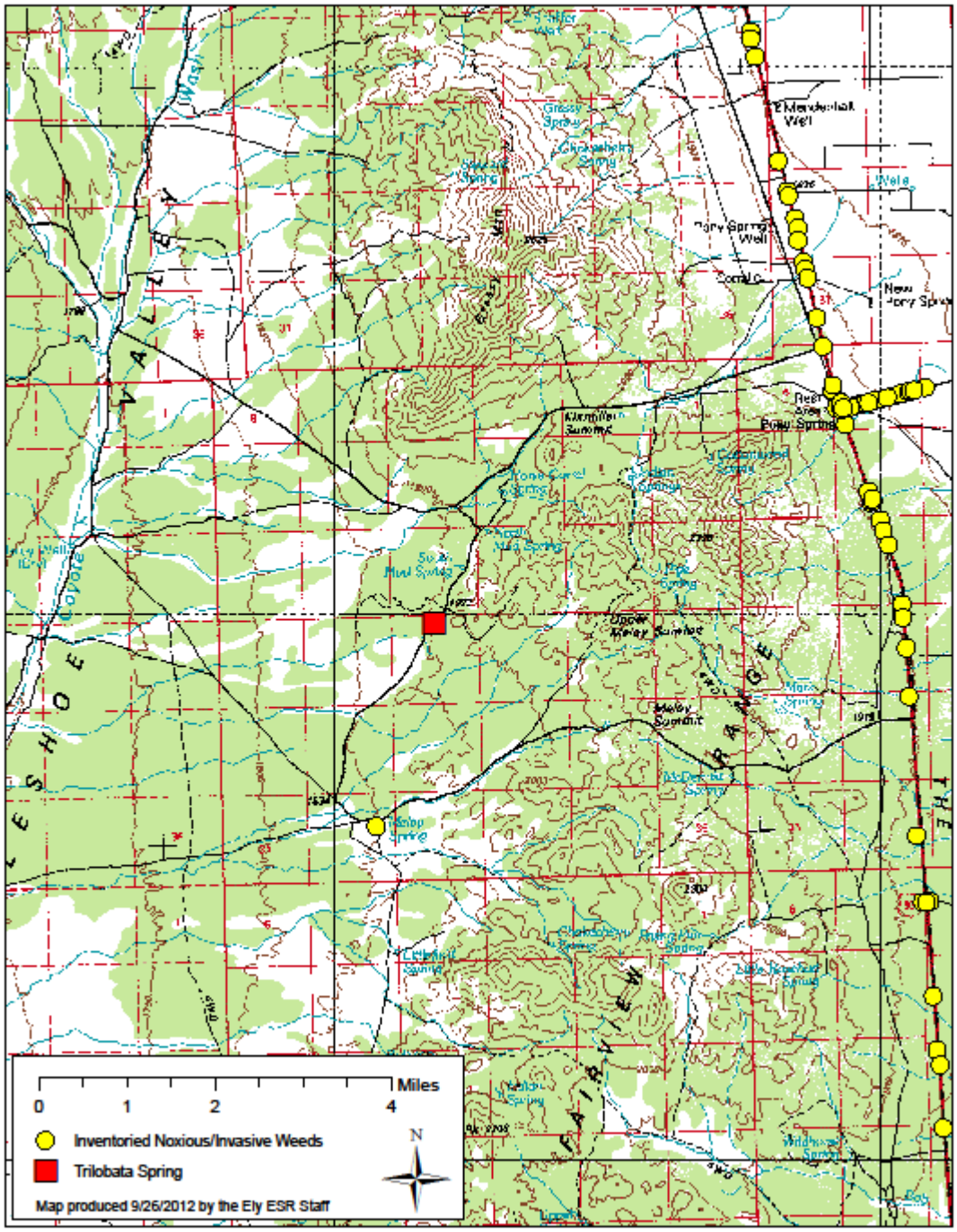
The Risk Rating is obtained by multiplying Factor 1 by Factor 2.

None (0)	Proceed as planned.
Low (1-10)	Proceed as planned. Initiate control treatment on noxious/invasive weed populations that get established in the area.
Moderate (11-49)	Develop preventative management measures for the proposed project to reduce the risk of introduction of spread of noxious/invasive weeds into the area. Preventative management measures should include modifying the project to include seeding the area to occupy disturbed sites with desirable species. Monitor the area for at least 3 consecutive years and provide for control of newly established populations of noxious/invasive weeds and follow-up treatment for previously treated infestations.
High (50-100)	Project must be modified to reduce risk level through preventative management measures, including seeding with desirable species to occupy disturbed site and controlling existing infestations of noxious/invasive weeds prior to project activity. Project must provide at least 5 consecutive years of monitoring. Projects must also provide for control of newly established populations of noxious/invasive weeds and follow-up treatment for previously treated infestations.

For this project, the Risk Rating is Low (9). This indicates that the project can proceed as planned as long as the Standard Operating Procedures found in Appendix I of the Trilobata Spring Redevelopment EA are followed.

Reviewed by: _____ 9/26/2012

Chris McVicars
Ely District Noxious & Invasive Weeds Coordinator

Date

TRILOBATA SPRING WRA