Worksheet
Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Project Lead: Ryan Leary
Field Office: Sierra Front Field Office
Lead Office: Sierra Front Field Office
Case File/Project Number: N/A
NEPA NUMBER: DOI-BLM-NV-C020-2015-0003-DNA
Project Name: Temporary Change of Season of Use and Temporary Water Hauls on the Flanigan Allotment
Applicant Name: BLM
Project Location: Washoe County, located in T27N, R 18E; T27N, R 19E; T27N, R 20E; T26N, R 18E; T26N, R 19E; T26N, R 20E; T25N, R 18E; T25N, R 19E; T25N, R 20E.

A. Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures:
The Proposed Action would:

1. Alter the season of use on the Allotment in accordance with the schedule below and the attached map.

2. Authorize five temporary water hauls at the northern end of the Allotment as depicted in the attached map.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the Sierra Front Field Office (SFFO) managed lands as a whole are currently in extreme to exceptional drought conditions as defined by the U.S. Drought Monitor. The changes the pasture season of use and water haul authorizations are being undertaken to mitigate these conditions. These drought management actions were analyzed in the Carson City District Drought Management Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-NV-C000-2013-0001-EA) (Drought EA).

<u>Temporary Change in Season of Use</u>.

There are no fences dividing the areas considered the eastern and western pastures on the northern ¾ of the Allotment. The eastern portion is managed as winter range from December 1 to April 15 and the western portion is managed as spring range from April 16 to June 16. This decision changes the season of use so that:

- the northern portion of both areas would be used as winter range from December 1 to March 1 and the southeastern portion is used as spring range from March 2 to April 14 to enable, in conjunction with the water hauls, better livestock control by controlling the availability of water (see attached map);
- grazing would be better aligned with water availability by using the Cold Springs pasture from April 15 to August 30, with use of the Sheep Springs area based on water availability there;

- livestock could water on private land if drought conditions reduce customary water sources when the Summer-Fall pasture is used from 8/31 to 9/30.

Pasture	On date	Off date
Winter	12/1/2014	3/1/2015
Spring	3/2/2015	4/14/2015
Cold Springs	4/15/2015	8/30/2015
Sheep Springs	8/16/2015	8/30/2015
Summer-Fall	8/31/2015	9/30/2015

Temporary Water Hauls.
There are three wells along the northern boundary of the Allotment. Adding five temporary water hauls would allow better cattle distribution by providing water between the wells, closer to more of the forage on the northern portion of the Allotment. The additional availability of water would assist in keeping the cattle in the northern portion of the Allotment until it was time to move them south to the spring range.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance
The Proposed Action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

Consolidated Resource Management Plan (May 2001): LSG - 1

- Maintain or improve the condition of the public rangelands to enhance productivity for all rangeland and watershed values;
- Provide adequate, high quality forage for livestock by improving rangeland condition;
- Maintain a sufficient quality and diversity of habitat and forage for livestock, wildlife, and wild horses through natural regeneration and/or vegetation manipulation methods;
- Improve the vegetation resource and range condition by providing for the physiological needs of the key plant species; and
- Reduce soil erosion and enhance watershed values by increasing ground cover and litter.

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.
Carson City District (CCD) Drought Management Environmental Assessment (Drought EA) (DOI-BLM-NV-C000-2013-0001-EA). The Finding of No Significant Impact statement was dated July 2, 2013.

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

Yes. The Proposed Action is to implement, either separately or in combination, Drought Response Actions (DRA) described in the CCD Drought Management Plan (Appendix 3 of the CCD Drought EA) including "C. Temporary Change in Season of Use" and "I. Temporary Water Hauls."

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

Yes, the current environmental concerns, interests and resource values are the same as analyzed in the CCD Drought EA. Temporary water hauls and change in season of use for the duration of the drought plus one growing season to allow for resource protection are two of the DRA described in the CDD Drought Management Plan (Appendix 3 of the CCD Drought EA) and analyzed in CCD Drought EA (pages 8 and 10). The range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document for responding to drought conditions remains appropriate with respect to the current Proposed Action.

Since the completion of CCD Drought EA in 2013, there are no new environmental concerns, interests, resource values or circumstances that have been introduced that would require additional analysis to be conducted in the area.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, range- land health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

Yes. The existing analysis covers the current drought conditions that have been documented. Temporary water hauls and change in season of use are two of the DRAs described in the Proposed Action of the CCD Drought Management Plan (Appendix 3 of the CCD Drought EA) and analyzed in the CCD Drought EA (pages 8 and 10). According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the drought is forecasted to persist across northern Nevada. Given the continuation of the drought, the BLM can reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the potential impacts of the Proposed Action.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

Yes. The direct, indirect, and cumulative effects for the Proposed Action are identical to those identified in the CCD Drought EA. The CCD Drought EA sufficiently analyzed all affected resources related to implementing one or more drought response actions.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

Yes. The public involvement and interagency review associated with CCD Drought EA is adequate for the Proposed Action. Comments were accepted on the CCD Drought EA for a 30-day period from March 12, 2013 through April 12, 2013. Postcards mailed to 147 individuals, organizations and agencies were mailed on March 12, 2013. Emails were sent to 10 individuals, organizations and agencies, and notification of the availability of the CCD Drought EA was sent

to 61 other State and federal agencies was made through the Nevada State Clearinghouse on March 14, 2013. The CCD published a news release on March 12, 2013. The CCD also posted the Dear Reader Letter and CCD Drought EA on the project website on March 12, 2013. On March 20, 2013 a BLM representative attended both the Churchill County and Mineral County Commissioners meeting and informed the Commissioners and other attendees that the CCD Drought EA was out for public review. The representative also provided five hard copies of the CCD Drought EA and 20 postcards at each of the meetings for the Commissioners and others.

All comments were reviewed, considered, and then categorized into topics when feasible. Distinct topics and comments are summarized in Appendix 7 of the CCD Drought EA. During the comment period approximately 6,950 comment letters and emails were received from numerous individuals, State agencies, and non-governmental organizations by email, fax or mail. Organizations included the Sierra Club, the Cloud Foundation, and the American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign. State agencies that commented include the Nevada Division of Water Resources, the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Nevada State Grazing Board District N-3, and the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Minor non-substantive changes were made to the EA as a result of these comment letters.

E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

Name	Title	Resource/Agency Represented
Brian Buttazoni	NEPA Compliance	BLM

Note: Refer to the CCD Drought EA (DOI-BLM-NV-C000-2013-0001-EA) for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analysis or planning documents.

Conclusion: Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.

Signature of Project Lead

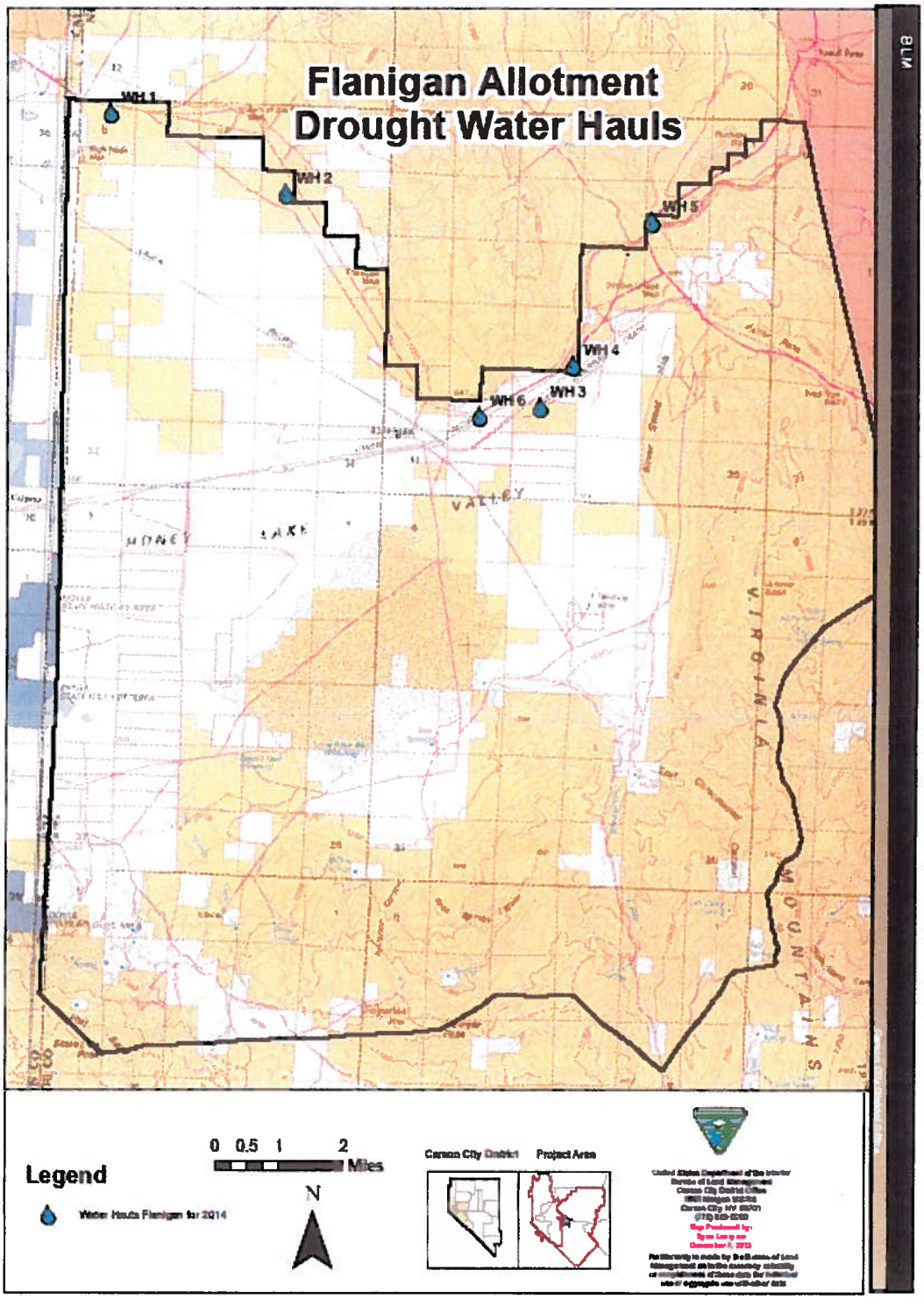
Signature of NEPA Coordinator

Leon Thomas
Field Manager Acting
Sierra Front Field Office

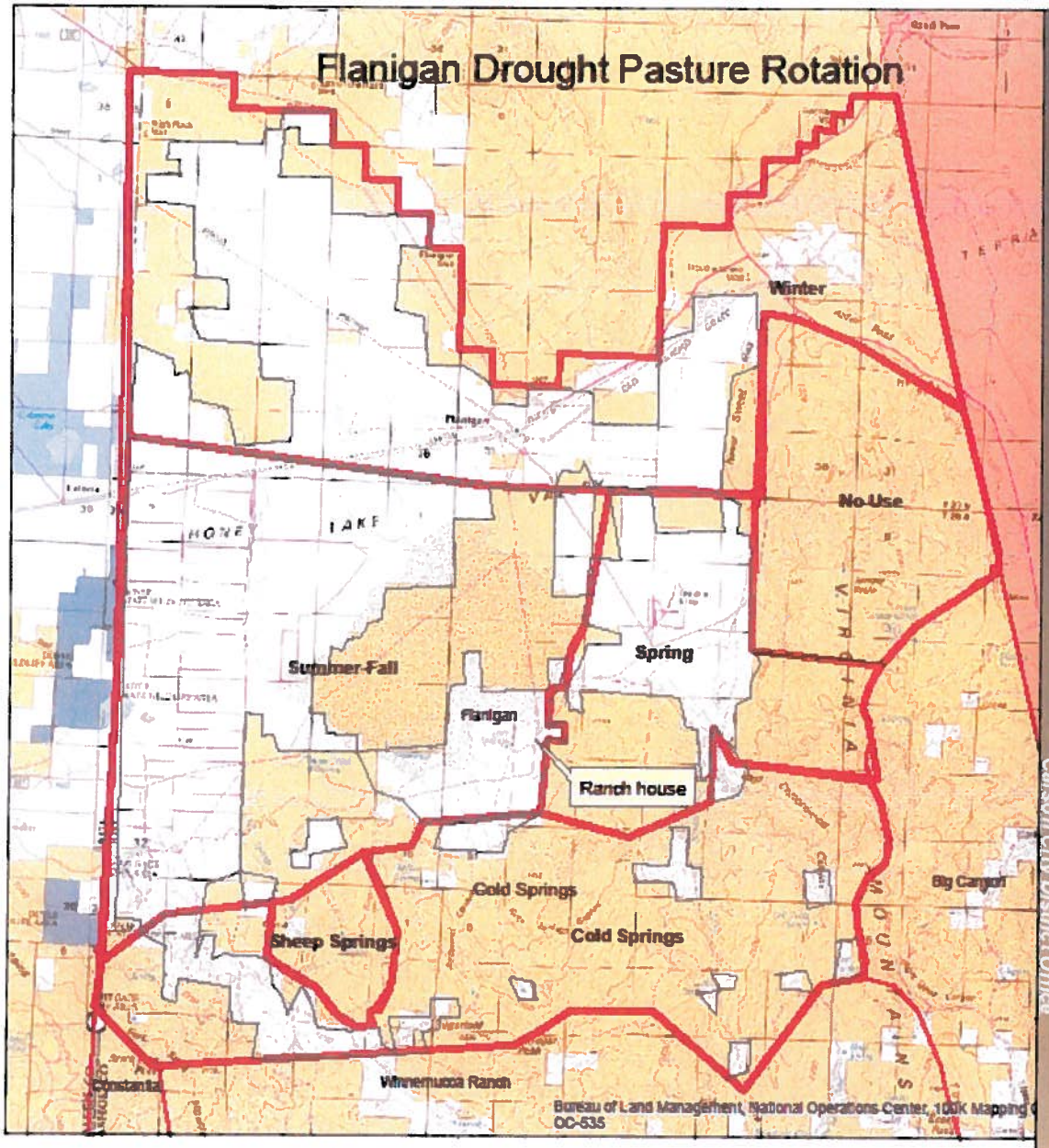
Date 11/6/14

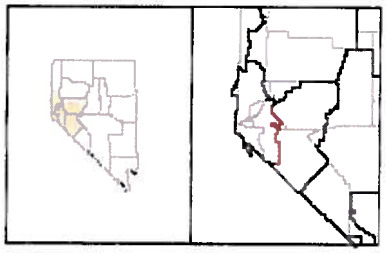
Does this DNA constitute the decision document for this Proposed Action? ☐Yes ☒ No (see Proposed Grazing Decision).

Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.


Flanigan Allotment
Drought Water Hauls
WH 1
WH 2
WH 3
WH 4
WH 5
WH 6
HONEY LAKE VALLEY
VIRGINIA MOUNTAINS
Legend
Water Hauls Flanigan for 2014
0 0.5 1 2
Miles
N
Carson City District
Project Area
BLM

Flanigan Drought Pasture Rotation





N

0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles

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