

**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT &
DECISION RECORD**

Sunrise Pass Road Water Tank

DOI-BLM-NV-C020-2015-0032-EA

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Carson City District
Sierra Front Field Office
5665 Morgan Mill Road
Carson City, NV 89701
775-885-6000

July 2015



It is the mission of the Bureau of Land Management to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) fire management program and the East Fork Fire and Paramedic District are always looking for ways to improve wildfire suppression response. Access to water is critical for wildland fire initial attack success in northwestern Nevada. This project would be a collaborative effort between the two agencies.

1.2 Purpose and Need

Additional water storage in the northern Pine Nut Mountains would improve fire suppression efforts for the protection of both wildland urban interface (WUI) areas and valuable natural resources. The location of the tank is strategic because it is located along the only east-west corridor in the northern Pine Nut Mountains. Having a water tank in this location would reduce the time needed to refill brush engines in support of wildfire operations.

1.3 Scoping and Issues Identification

The need for this action was discussed by an interdisciplinary group on June 24, 2015.

1.4 Decision to be made

The Authorized Officer would decide whether to implement the water tank installation as described in the Proposed Action.

1.5 Land Use Plan Conformance Statement

The Project is in conformance with the Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan (CRMP), May 2001, page FIR-2, RMP Level Decision, #1A:

- Category A: Those areas where wildfires are not wanted. These areas include threatened and endangered species habitat and the urban/wildland interface.

1.6 Relationships to Statutes, Regulations, and Other Plans

The Proposed Action is consistent with all federal laws and regulations; other plans, programs, and policies of affiliated Tribes; other federal agencies, state, and local government, to the extent practical within federal law, regulation, and policy.

2.0 ALTERNATIVES

2.1 Description of Alternatives

2.1.1 *Alternative A: Proposed Action*

The Proposed Action would install a 10,000 gallon underground water tank along Sunrise Pass Road east of Johnson Lane and just west of the dirt road that goes to Brunswick Canyon. The planning area is approximately 0.5 acres of previously disturbed ground. The tank is about 35 feet long and 9 feet tall. Ground disturbance would be 50 feet by 15 feet and 12 feet deep. After the burial of the tank, a fire hydrant would be installed above ground with four protective posts surrounding it.



2.1.2 *Alternative B: No Action*

Under the No Action Alternative, the BLM would not implement the water tank installation.

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

This chapter identifies and describes the current condition and trend of elements or resources in the human environment which may be affected by the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative.

3.1 Setting

The planning area is approximately 0.5 acres of highly disturbed turnout next to the Sunrise Pass road between Johnson Lane and the turnoff to Brunswick Canyon.

3.1.1 Resources Considered for Analysis

The BLM is required to address specific elements of the environment that are subject to requirements in statute, regulation or by executive order (BLM 2008). Table 3-1 lists the elements that must be addressed through environmental analysis and indicates whether the alternatives affect those elements. Other resources of the human environment that have been considered for analysis are listed in Table 3-2.

Table 3-1. Supplemental Authorities*.

Resource	Present Yes/No	Affected Yes/No	Rationale
Air Quality	Y	N	Douglas County is an attainment area for air quality. During construction there would be negligible increase in emissions from motorized equipment and vehicles, and increase in particulates during ground disturbing activities.
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	N		Resource not present.
Cultural Resources	N		The BLM has completed a class III inventory of the Project site and determined that no historic properties are present.
Environmental Justice	N		Resource not present.
Farm Lands (prime or unique)	N		Resource not present.
Floodplains	N		Resource not present.
Invasive, Non-Native Plant Species	Y	N	The presence of noxious and invasive weeds would be managed through the BLM's Integrated Weed Management Plan.
Migratory Birds	N		Resource not present.
Native American Religious Concerns	N		Resource not present.
Threatened or Endangered Species	N		Resource not present.
Wastes, Hazardous or Solid	N		Resource not present.
Water Quality (Surface/Ground)	N		Resource not present.
Wetlands/Riparian Zones	N		Resource not present.
Wild and Scenic Rivers	N		Resource not present.
Wilderness/WSA	N		Resource not present.

*See H-1790-1 (January 2008) Appendix 1 Supplemental Authorities to be Considered.

Supplemental Authorities determined to be Not Present or Present/Not Affected need not be carried forward or discussed further in the document.

Supplemental Authorities determined to be Present/May Be Affected may be carried forward in the document.

Table 3-2. Resources or Uses Other Than Supplemental Authorities.

Resource or Issue**	Present Yes/No	Affected Yes/No	Rationale
BLM Sensitive Species	Y	N	Sensitive wildlife may be present in the Project area. During construction activities there would be localized, short-term displacement of any wildlife present.
Fire Management	Y	Y	Carried forward for analysis.
Forest Resources	N		Resource not present.
General Wildlife	Y	N	Wildlife may be present in the Project area. During construction activities there would be localized, short-term displacement of any wildlife present.
Land and Realty	N		There are no existing land and realty authorizations on the proposed water tank site.
Lands with Wilderness Characteristics	N		Resource not present.
Livestock Grazing	N		Resource not present
Minerals	N		Resource not present.
Paleontological	N		Resource not present.
Recreation	Y	N	Dispersed recreation in the Project area would not be affected by the construction and long-term maintenance of this water tank.
Socioeconomics	N		Resource not present.
Soils	Y	N	There would be negligible disturbance to soils in the Project area, although the Project area is already highly impacted.
Travel Management	N		Resource not present.
Vegetation	Y		The site for the water tank is highly disturbed and there is poor quality vegetation in and adjacent to the Project site.
Visual Resources	N		Resource not present.
Wild Horses and Burros	N		Resource not present.

***Resources or uses determined to be Not Present or Present/Not Affected need not be carried forward or discussed further in the document.*

Resources or uses determined to be Present/May Be Affected may be carried forward in the document.

3.2 Fire Management

The BLM is responsible for fire management, including fuels management, within the planning area on BLM-managed lands. The BLM is also responsible for fire suppression within the area on Indian trust lands through an annual agreement with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The area surrounding the Proposed Action contains a large amount of WUI. The intermixed landscape of public and private lands means wildland fires have a heightened potential to spread onto private property, destroying homes and valued landscapes. The BLM coordinates with other federal, State, county, and local agencies and participates in proactive community projects to reduce wildfire risks and damages.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

4.1 Introduction

The purpose of this chapter is to present the impact analysis of the alternatives and to disclose the impacts of the actions on affected resources by the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative.

4.2 Fire Management

Alternative A: Proposed Action

The overall effect of the Proposed Action would result in the intended consequences of increasing the initial attack success rate for wildland fire suppression efforts. The potential adverse impacts to life, property, and natural resources from wildfire would be reduced, a beneficial effect.

There is a slight risk of the equipment conducting starting a wildland fire by hitting rocks and causing sparks during installation. This risk can be minimized by scheduling the installation outside periods of very high to extreme fire danger or by having water available on site.

Alternative B: No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, the water tank would not be installed. Drive time to refill fire engines would not be shortened, potentially reducing initial attack success in the northern Pine Nut Mountains.

5.0 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

A cumulative effect is defined under NEPA as “the change in the environment 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 action”. “Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time” (40 CFR Part 1508.7). Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions are analyzed to the extent that they are relevant and useful in analyzing whether the reasonably foreseeable effects of the Proposed Action and/or No Action Alternative may have an additive and significant relationship to those effects.

5.1 Past, Present and Reasonably Foreseeable Actions

There have been no previous authorizations in the Project area. The Project area is highly disturbed, likely from motorized vehicle use.

5.2 Fire Management

The Pine Nut Mountains were subject to a historic regime of wildfire caused by lightning strikes. In more modern times, the area is also subject to man-caused wildfire in addition to natural (lightning-caused) fire. Natural and human-caused wildland fires are likely to occur in the future. Strategically locating a water source near the intersection of Sunrise Pass road and Brunswick would reduce the drive time needed to refill fire engines by approximately two hours. A reduction in drive time would over time increase wildland fire initial attack success.

6.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

6.1 Public Review and Comment

Because this is a non-controversial project and needed urgently due to the current drought and fire conditions, this Project was not made available for public review.

6.2 List of Preparers

BLM staff that contributed to this document.

Name	Resource
Brian Buttazoni	NEPA Compliance
Keith Barker	Fire Management
Alicia Alfaro	Archeologist

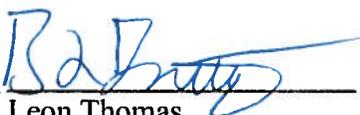
7.0 REFERENCES

Bureau of Land Management (BLM). 2001. *Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan (CRMP), Carson City, Nevada*. U.S. Department of the Interior. May.

_____. 2008. *National Environmental Policy Act Handbook (H-1790-1)*. U.S. Department of the Interior. January.

8.0 FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in this Final EA, and considering the significance criteria found in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that the Proposed Action, will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required.

ACTING FOR

Leon Thomas
Field Manager
Sierra Front Field Office

7/31/2015
Date

9.0 DECISION

It is my Decision to approve the installation of the 10,000 gallon water tank as described in the Proposed Action.

ACTING FOR

Leon Thomas
Field Manager
Sierra Front Field Office

7/31/2015
Date

APPEAL PROCEDURES

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with 43 CFR Part 4. If you appeal, your appeal must also be filed with the Bureau of Land Management at the following address:

Leon Thomas
Field Manager
BLM, Sierra Front Field Office
5665 Morgan Mill Road
Carson City, NV 89701

Your appeal must be filed within thirty (30) days from receipt or issuance of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition pursuant to regulation 43 CFR 4.21 (58 FR 4942, January 19, 1993) for a stay (suspension) of the decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for stay must accompany your notice of appeal. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to:

Board of Land Appeals
Dockets Attorney
801 N. Quincy Street, Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22203

A copy must also be sent to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor at the same time the original documents are filed with the above office.

U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of the Regional Solicitor
Pacific Southwest Region
2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1712
Sacramento, CA 95825

If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
2. The likelihood of the appellants success on the merits.
3. The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted.
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

The Office of Hearings and Appeals regulations do not provide for electronic filing of appeals. Electronically filed appeals will therefore not be accepted.