BLM

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

FinalEnvironmental Assessment

DOI-BLM-NV-L030-2015-0029-EA
Four Emergency Stabilization & Rehabilitation Fence Conversions

10 November, 2015

Applicant:

Caliente Field Office

Bureau of Land Management

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Prepared by
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Table of Contents

1. Introduction 1

1.1. Background: 1
1.2. Purpose of the Proposed Action : 2
1.3. Decision to be Made: 2

2. Description of Alternatives, Including Proposed Action 3

2.1. Introduction: 5
2.2. Alternative A – Proposed Action: 5
2.3. Alternative B – No Action: 5
2.4. Alternatives Considered, but Eliminated from Further Analysis 5
2.5. Relationship to Planning 5
2.5.1. Conformance with BLM Land Use Plan(s): 5
2.5.2. Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, or other Plans 6

3. Affected Environment/Environmental Impacts 7

3.1. Introduction: 9
3.2. Identification of Issues: 9
3.3. General Setting: 12
3.4. Resources/Concerns Analyzed 12
3.4.1. Wild Horses 12
3.4.1.1. Affected Environment 12
3.4.1.2. Environmental Effects 13
3.4.2. Land Use 13
3.4.2.1. Affected Environment 13
3.4.2.2. Environmental Effects 13
3.4.3. Grazing Use / Forage 13
3.4.3.1. Affected Environment 13
3.4.3.2. Environmental Effects 21

4. Cumulative Impacts 23

4.1. Introduction: 25
4.2. Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions 25
4.3. Cumulative Impact Analysis 25
4.3.1. Wild Horses, Land Use, Grazing Use/Forage 25

5. Consultation and Coordination: 27

5.1. Introduction 29
5.2. List of Preparers 29
5.2.1. BLM 29

Acronyms 31

List of Figures

Figure 3.1. Location of the Mustang Allotment with Respect to the Big Rocks Wilderness Area and Surrounding Nevada Towns. 14
Figure 3.2. Location of Mustang Fire Fence, Mustang Fire Fence Extension, Existing Watering Locations, the Big Rocks Wilderness Area, and Pipelines on the Mustang Allotment. 15
Figure 3.3. Location of the Barclay Allotment with Respect to Surrounding Nevada Towns. 16
Figure 3.4. Kendall Fire Fence — Barclay Allotment 17
Figure 3.5. Blue Garden Fence — Garden Spring Allotment, Clover Mountains Wilderness, and surrounding Nevada Towns 18
Figure 3.6. Blue Garden Fence — Garden Spring Allotment 19
Figure 3.7. Location of the Rattlesnake Allotment with respect to Weepah Spring and Big Rocks Wilderness Areas, Horse Mangement Areas (HMA) and surrounding Nevada towns. 20
Figure 3.8. North Pahroc Fire Fence —Rattlesnake Allotment 21

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List of Tables

Table 1.1. ES&R Fences being Analyzed 1
Table 3.1. Identification of Issues for Detailed Analysis 9
Table 3.2. Allotment-Fence Name 12
Table 5.1. List of Preparers 29

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Chapter 1. Introduction

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This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to analyze conversion of four Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation(ESR) fences from temporary use for fire restoration to permanent range allotment improvements. The EA is titled "*Four Emergency Stabilization & Rehabilitation (ESR) Fence Conversion Environmental Assessment*", and is a site-specific analysis of potential impacts that could result with implementation of a proposed action or alternatives to a proposed action. This EA assists the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in project planning, 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 determined by the consideration of context and intensity of the impacts. If there is a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), the context and intensity criteria are listed with rationale for the determination in the FONSI document.

This document is tiered to, and incorporates by reference, the Ely Proposed Resource ManagementPlan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) released in November 2007, the North Pahroc Fire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR) Plan 2002, the Environmental Assessment for 2006 Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Projects for Forty-Six (46) Wildfires in Lincoln, Nye and White Pine Counties 2006, Incorporation By Reference To The Normal Year Fire Rehabilitation Plan Environmental Assessment For The Kendall Fire, 2000 with tiered reference to the Normal Year Fire Rehabilitation Plan and Environmental Assessment (NFRP and EA) for the Las Vegas District, 1991, and the Blue Garden ESR EA, which was also tiered to the NFRP and EA for the Las Vegas District, 1991. (Table 2.5.2.1)

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 disclosed in the existing NEPA documents", a FONSI will be prepared to document that determination, and a Decision Record will be issued to provide rationale for approving the chosen alternative.

1.1. Background:

Four ESR fences were constructed in four grazing allotments. (Table 1.1.1, Figures 3.)

Table 1.1. ES&R Fences being Analyzed

Fire Name	Fire Number	Fence Name	Year Built	Length	Allotment
Mustang	C2HR	Mustang Fire Fence	2006	3.5	Mustang
North Pahroc	Y109	North Pahroc	2002	3.25	Rattlesnake
Blue Garden	Y217	Blue Garden	1998	4.5	Garden Spring
Kendall	Y042	Kendall	2000	1.2	Barclay

Background for ESR stabilization, including the need for additional fencing, can be referenced in Departmental Manual Part 620 DM 3: Wildland Fire management Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation, May 20, 2004.

ESR fence construction was analyzed in four separate EA documents as referenced in the introduction, above. The analysis provided that these fences would be removed when emergency stabilization objectives were met or they were reanalyzed through a subsequent EA, if needed, on a permanent basis to continue to protect and manage the rangelands.

1.2. Purpose of the Proposed Action :

The BLM's purpose in considering approval of these fences on a permanent basis is to provide legitimate use of the public lands by continued protection and management of rangelands. Legitimate uses are those that are authorized under the Federal Lands Management Policy (FLPMA) of 1976 or other Public Land Acts and meet the proponent's objective while preventing undue and unnecessary degradation.

BLM's objective is to continue use of the ESR fences as tools to increase livestock permittee's opportunities to respond to forage availability and use patterns for livestock grazing in subject allotments. Although not all ESR fences provide similar opportunities, these fences have proven to coincidently allow grazing permittee's a greater range of options for using forage under different seasons-of-use in allotments that are currently grazed season-long.

The justification for the project is several-fold. The allotments involved are Open and Active grazing allotments available for Term Grazing Permit use under the Ely District Resource Management Plan (Ely RMP, 2008). Under this document, the BLM has an obligation to meet Rangeland Health Standards for soil, vegetation, riparian and biota.

BLM needs to consider approval of the proposed action to respond to its mandate under the FLPMA to manage the public lands for multiple-use in a manner which recognizes the Nation's need to sustain rangeland health on public rangelands.

1.3. Decision to be Made:

Upon completion of this Environmental Assessment the Authorized Officer for the Bureau of Land Management will select the alternative, or portions thereof, that will either maintain these four rangeland fences for temporary ESR use, which requires their removal; or will convert these fences to permanent rangeland improvements for perpetual use.

An addition appendix, Appendix A, has been added to address bottom-wire fence construction specifications per comments received from the Nevada Department of Wildlife.

Chapter 2. Description of Alternatives, Including Proposed Action

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2.1. Introduction:

The previous chapter presented the purpose and need for the proposed project, as well as the relevant issues, i.e., those elements that could be affected by the implementation of the proposed project. In order to meet the purpose and need of the proposed project in a way that resolves the issues, the BLM has developed a range of action alternatives. These alternatives, as well as a no action alternative, are presented below. The potential environmental impacts or consequences resulting from the implementation of each alternative are then analyzed in Chapter 3 for each of the identified issues.

2.2. Alternative A – Proposed Action:

The proposed action would convert four temporary ESR fences listed in Table 1 above, constructed for temporary soil, water and vegetation protection during fire rehabilitation efforts, to permanent rangeland fence improvements in four separate allotments (Figures 3.2, 3.4, 3.6, 3.8). Approximately 3200' of new rangeland fence, with an accompanying drop-gate, would be constructed (added to) the west end of the Garden Spring fence to tie the existing fence to a better geographic barrier for cattle. (Figure 3.2)

To address comments received on BLM's Preliminary version of this document, an appendix has been added to address fence construction specifications for the new Garden Spring fence addition, as requested by the Nevada Department of Wildlife. The bottom wire will be 18" above-ground and will be made of smooth wire. ESR fences currently constructed and in place were built with smooth wire bottom-wire construction at 16". (Appendix A)

2.3. Alternative B – No Action:

The no action alternative would remove these four ESR fences from the allotments, and 3200' of new rangeland fencing would not be built.

2.4. Alternatives Considered, but Eliminated from Further Analysis

No additional alternatives were considered.

2.5. Relationship to Planning

2.5.1. Conformance with BLM Land Use Plan(s):

The proposed action is in conformance with the Goals and Objectives of the Ely District Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Ely RMP, BLM 2008), which are to: *Manage livestock grazing on public lands to provide for a level of livestock grazing consistent with multiple use, sustained yield and watershed function and health.*

In addition, review of management decisions for other resources and concerns that would possibly be impacted by the project was conducted, and it was determined that approval of the proposed action is in conformance with the Ely RMP.

2.5.2. Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, or other Plans

The following documents were prepared for the installation of the four ESR fences in the Mustang, Pahroc, Blue Garden and Kendall allotments, respectively.

Table 1— Other Planning Documents

Document Title	Reference Number	Date Signed
Environmental Assessment for The 2006 Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Projects for Forty-Six (46) Wildfires in Lincoln, Nye and White Pine Counties	(EA # NV-040-06-59)	October 24, 2006
Decision Record And Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI) North Pahroc Fire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan	NV-054-9-24- (S1-02)	July 7, 2002
The Incorporation by Reference to the Normal Year Fire Rehabilitation Plan Environmental Assessment for Blue Garden K217.	NV-054-9-24 (S299)	July 1999, Unsigned copy available on file.*
Incorporation By Reference To The Normal Year Fire Rehabilitation Plan Environmental Assessment For The Kendall Fire (Y042)	NV-054-9-24 (S100)	July, 2000

Chapter 3. Affected Environment/Environmental Impacts

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3.1. Introduction:

This chapter presents the existing environment (i.e., the physical, biological, social, and economic values and resources) of the impact area, the issues analyzed, the impacts to the analyzed resources, and mitigation that could be applied that would reduce those impacts. Mitigation proposed in this section could be included in the FONSI to prevent potentially significant impacts. Application of the mitigation measures to the proposed action would then be carried forward into the Decision Record as a condition of approval of the proposal.

While many potential issues may arise during scoping, not all of them warrant analysis. Issues raised through scoping are analyzed if:

- Analysis of the issue is necessary to make a reasoned choice between alternatives.
- The issue is significant (an issue associated with a significant impact, such as a potential violation of a law imposed to protect the environment).
- Analysis of the issue is necessary to determine if the direct or indirect impacts are themselves significant, or if it would add a measurable incremental impact to past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions that could have a cumulatively significant impact.

Potential impacts to the following resources/concerns were evaluated in accordance with criteria listed above to determine if detailed analysis was required.

- Wild Horses and Burros
- Land Uses
- Rangeland Management

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 the Ely District.

3.2. Identification of Issues:

Internal scoping was conducted by an interdisciplinary team on [date] that analyzed the potential consequences of the proposed action. The table below includes a summary of the results of this ID Team review

The following table documents the issues evaluation or rationale for dismissal from analysis:

Table 3.1. Identification of Issues for Detailed Analysis

Resource/ Concern	**Not Present**	**Present/ Not Affected**	**Present/ May Be Affected**	**Rationale**
Air Quality*		X		Proposed action has no anticipated effects to Air Quality.
Water Quality, Drinking/Ground*		X		Proposed action has no anticipated effects to Water Quality.
Water Resources (Water Rights)		X		Proposed action has no effects to Water Rights.

Resource/ Concern	**Not Present**	**Present/ Not Affected**	**Present/ May Be Affected**	**Rationale**
Farmlands, Prime and Unique*	X			
Soils/Watershed		X		Proposed action has no effects to Water Rights.
Forest Health*	X			Project does not meet HFRA criteria.
Vegetation, Forest/Woodland and other vegetative products (Native seeds, yucca and cactus plants)		X		The proposed action will have minimal ground disturbance. For additional vegetation effects see Livestock Grazing.
Wetlands/Riparian Zones*	X			
Fish and Wildlife		X		New Fence Construction and any reconstruction would be in accordance with BLM Specifications.
Migratory Birds*		X		No population level effects are anticipated.
FWS Listed (or proposed for listing) Threatened or Endangered Species or critical habitat.		X		No new ground disturbance proposed in T&E Habitat.
Special Status Animal Species, other than those listed or proposed by the FWS as Threatened or Endangered.		X		No new ground disturbance proposed in special status species habitat.
Special Status Plant Species, other than those listed or proposed by the FWS as Threatened or Endangered.		X		No new ground disturbance proposed in special status species habitat.
Wild Horses			X	Analyzed below for HMA/HA areas.
Cultural Resources *	X			The fences that have been constructed were inventoried prior to being installed and the proposed new segment of fence was also inventoried as part of the original alignment but was not installed. No Cultural Resources were located during these inventories.
ACEC's designated for Cultural Resources*	X			
Heritage Special Designations (Historic Trails, Archaeological Districts and Areas)	X			
Paleontological Resources	X			
Visual Resources		X		The existing fences were considered as part of the Visual Resources Inventory. Effects have previously been identified and no new impacts would occur.
Land Uses			X	Three lands rights of ways exist in the proposed action and are analyzed below.

Resource/ Concern	**Not Present**	**Present/ Not Affected**	**Present/ May Be Affected**	**Rationale**
Transportation/ Access		X		The proposed action would not change any transportation or access on existing roads.
Recreation Uses including Back country Byways, Caves, Rockhounding Areas		X		Proposed action will not affect the dispersed recreation that takes place in these areas.
Grazing Uses/Forage			X	Analyzed in Detail — Soil compaction along fence lines, livestock distribution, and forage use.
Mineral Resources		X		Minerals should not be affected by installation or maintenance of fences. There are no current or new mining operations proposed in the Barclay area where new fencing would be installed. Claims or leases may occur in these areas. Any development of such claims or leases would be coordinated to preserve fencing and allow access via gates or other measures.
Floodplains*		X		The project area is an upland area FEMA flood zone D, unmapped for floodplains. Maintenance of existing fences would minimize impacts to ephemeral washes.
Fuels		X		These fences were installed as a result of wildland fires. Although recovery is at various stages no effects to fuels are expected.
ES&R		X		Existing Fences were installed as temporary ES&R projects, the proposed action would retain these fences for livestock grazing management.
Non-Native Invasive and Noxious Species *		X		For specific information see the Weed Risk Assessment located in Appendix A. The Weed Risk Assessment also contains a list of best management practices and measures for reducing the risk of impacts from weeds.
Wilderness/ WSA*	X			
Wild and Scenic Rivers	X			
Lands with Wilderness Characteristics		X		Two inventoried units were found to possess wilderness characteristics in the project area (NV-040-0107-1 and NV-040-0107-1); however, fence lines are generally considered "substantially unnoticeable." Further, these fences were in place at the time of the inventory update, and there would be no new impacts.
Human Health and Safety*		X		Work necessary to carry out the proposed action will be done in accordance with all BLM safety requirements
Native American Religious and other Concerns*	X			Existing improvements were subject to Native American Consultation at the time they were installed and No concerns were raised at that time.
Wastes, Hazardous or Solid*	X			

Resource/ Concern	Not Present	Present/ Not Affected	Present/ May Be Affected	Rationale
Public Safety		X		No public safety concerns are anticipated as a result of the proposed action
Environmental Justice*	X			No minority or low-income groups would be disproportionately affected by health or environmental effects.
Socioeconomics		X		No anticipated effects to the socioeconomics of the region are anticipated.

*Supplemental Authority

3.3. General Setting:

Four ESR fences were constructed in four grazing allotments. (Table 1.1.1, Figures 3.1–3.8). The fences were constructed in response to Emergency Fire Rehabilitation Plans livestock exclusion plans from 1999 to 2006. The four allotments lie west, northwest and south of Caliente, Nevada in Lincoln County, Nevada. These grazing allotments are part of the Mojave-Southern Great Basin Area Standards that provide direction for soil, riparian and biotic rangeland health. Livestock were excluded from fire seeded areas through construction of the subject fences. The fire rehabilitation and seeding efforts have been successful, and these fences are slated for removal from grazing allotments under their respective Decisions (Figure 2.5.1.1) unless further Environmental Assessment indicates these 12.45 miles of fence and 3200’ of new fence are appropriate for grazing allotment use.

Table 3.2. Allotment-Fence Name

Allotment	Fence Name
Mustang	Mustang Fire Fence
Rattlesnake	North Pahroc
Garden Spring	Blue Garden
Barclay	Kendall

3.4. Resources/Concerns Analyzed

3.4.1. Wild Horses

The North Pahroc ESR Fence is within the Silver King Herd Management Area (HMA) and the Blue Garden ESR Fence is in Blue Nose Peak Herd Area (HA).

3.4.1.1. Affected Environment

Although the North Pahroc and Blue Gardner ESR fences occur in the Silver King HMA and the Blue Nose Peak HA, the fences have been in place since 1999 and 2002, respectively. No impacts to management or movement of wild horses and burros has been previously ore recently identified since the ESR fences were constructed.

3.4.1.2. Environmental Effects

The ESR Fences would not prohibit the free-roaming behavior of wild horses or prevent wild horses from moving within the HMA/HA since the fences are open ended. Figures 3.6 and 3.8)

3.4.2. Land Use

There are three authorized rights-of-way (ROW) within the vicinity of the Mustang and Kendall fences. There are no existing authorizations in the vicinity of the North Pahroc and Garden Spring fences.

3.4.2.1. Affected Environment

The Mustang fence crosses the Mustang Spring Road (T.02 S., R.63 E., Sec. 35), which is an authorized ROW (NVN-90908) issued to the Lincoln County Road Department. The Kendall fence is in the vicinity of authorized ROW NVN-90853 issued to the Lincoln County Road Department for the Bunker Pass Road, and ROW NVN-86157 issued to the Lincoln County Water Department for a soil and water monitoring station.

3.4.2.2. Environmental Effects

Alt A Proposed Action: Extending the Garden Spring fence and allowing the four fences to remain in place in perpetuity, as range improvements, would have no environmental effects on the existing ROWs as mentioned above in 3.4.3.1. Alt B - No Action: Leaving the fences as they are constructed until such time funding becomes available for removal of the fences would have no effect on the existing ROWs as mentioned above in 3.4.3.1

3.4.3. Grazing Use / Forage

3.4.3.1. Affected Environment

Mustang Allotment

The 24,100 acre land based Mustang Allotment (#01047) has one permittee (#2703639) and is located approximately 20 miles northwest of Caliente in south-central Lincoln County, Nevada (following map). Elevations range from approximately 6,600 feet in the mountains, in the central portion of the allotment, to approximately 4,700 feet near the east boundary. Cattle are the type of livestock grazed on the allotment.

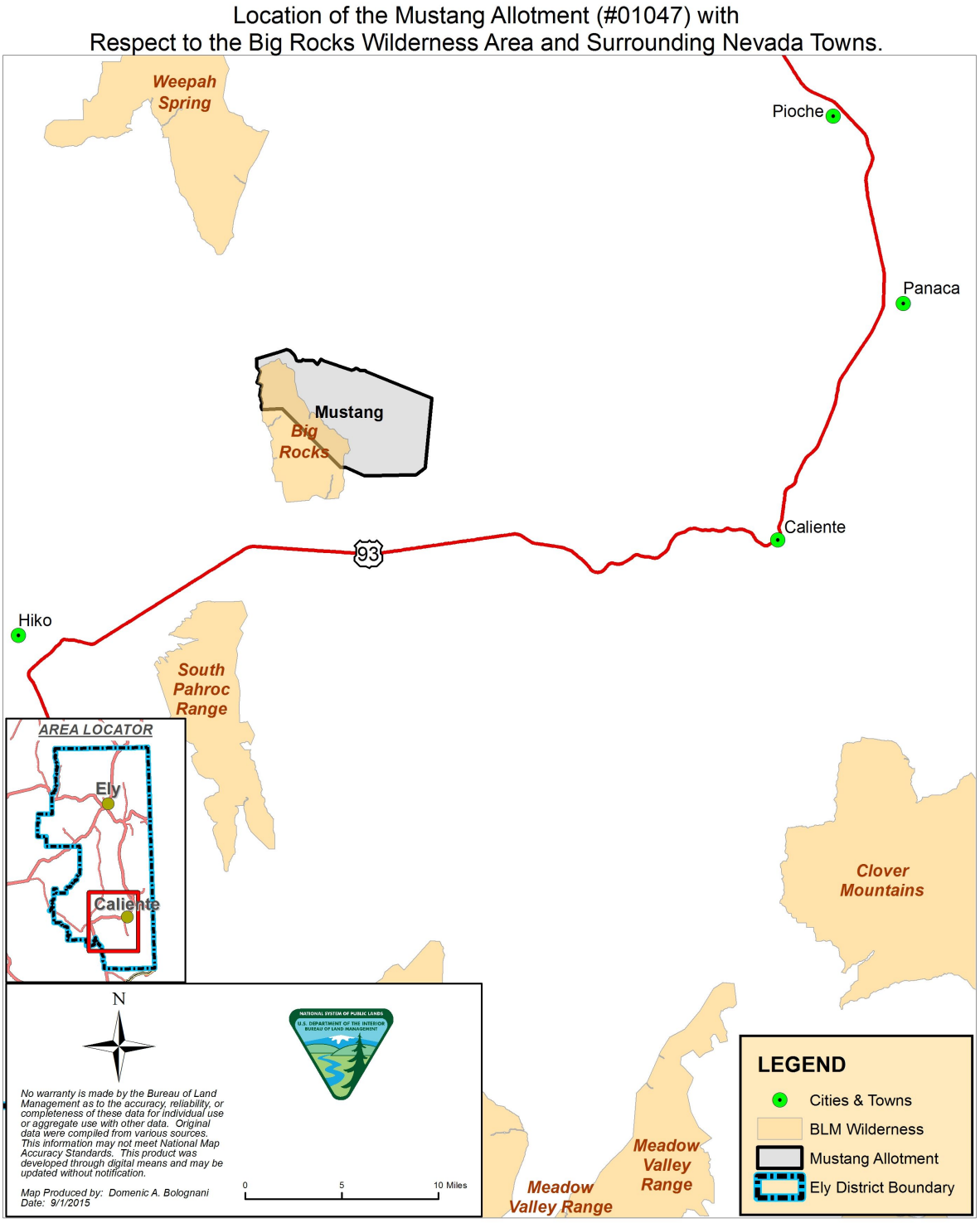

Figure 3.1. Location of the Mustang Allotment with Respect to the Big Rocks Wilderness Area and Surrounding Nevada Towns.

The Mustang Fire (#C2HR), caused by lightning, started on July 25, 2006 and burned 2,969 acres (Figure 3.2). Approximately 1,375 acres of the fire was aerially seeded on February 21, 2007.

Location of the Mustang Fire Fence, Existing Watering Locations,
Big Rocks Wilderness Area, and Pipelines on the Mustang Allotment.

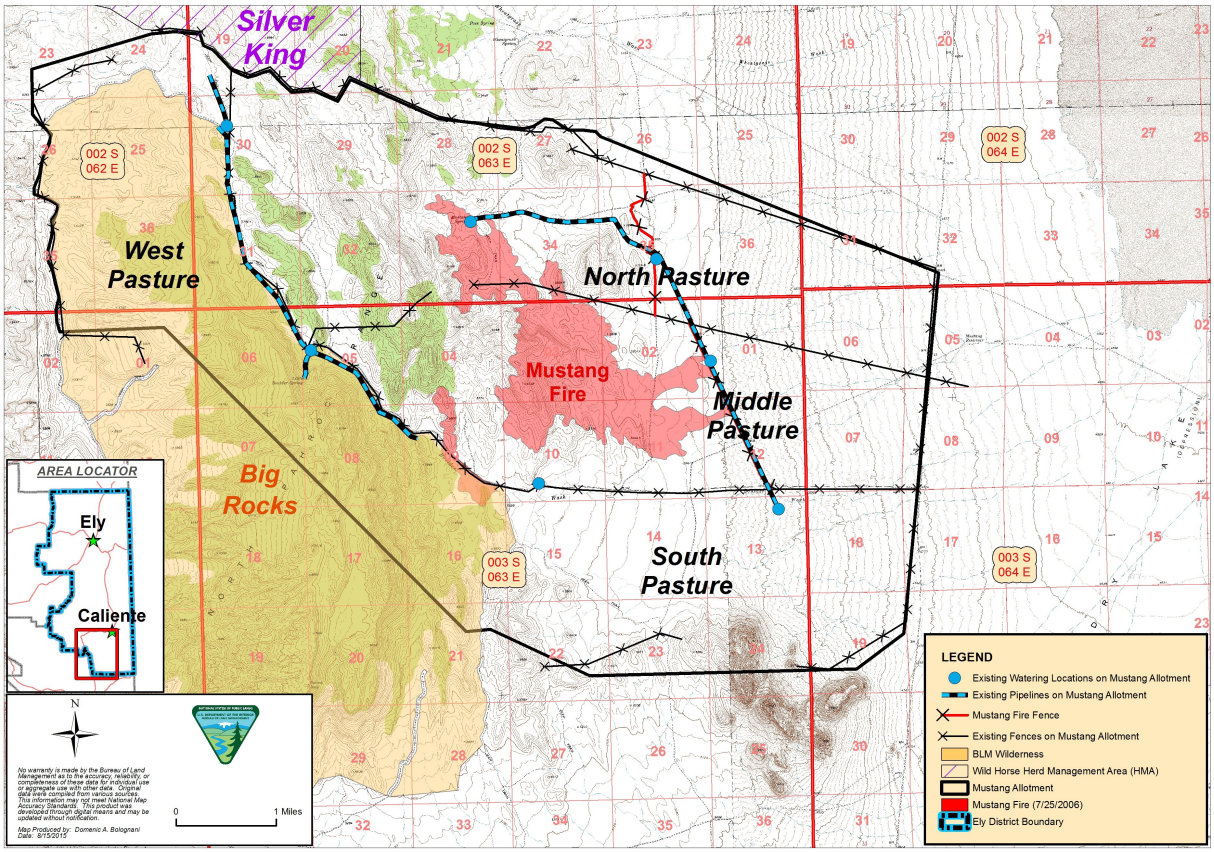

Figure 3.2. Location of Mustang Fire Fence, Mustang Fire Fence Extension, Existing Watering Locations, the Big Rocks Wilderness Area, and Pipelines on the Mustang Allotment.

The Mustang fire fence was constructed in January 2008 to prevent livestock access to the burned area. The area associated with the Mustang fire fence is characterized by relatively flat terrain with an occasional gentle rolling hill. Dominant vegetation in the area of fence construction consists of Wyoming big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata ssp. wyomingensis*), Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*), and needleandthread (*Hesperostipa comata*). Prior to the construction of the Mustang Fire fence the allotment was divided into the following four pastures: the north pasture, middle pasture, south pasture, and west pasture. The fire fence further divided the north and middle pastures each into an approximate east and west half.

The Mustang Fire fence does not occur within desert tortoise habitat, a wilderness or wilderness study area or a Wild Horse Herd Management Area (HMA).

Barclay Allotment

The Kendall fire fence is located in the Barclay Allotment and the eastern portion of the Clover Mountains in Lincoln County, Nevada approximately 23 miles southeast of Caliente, NV. The allotment is approximately 82,000 acres in size with elevations ranging from 5,500' to 6,500' above sea level. There are three grazing permittees authorized for grazing on this allotment.

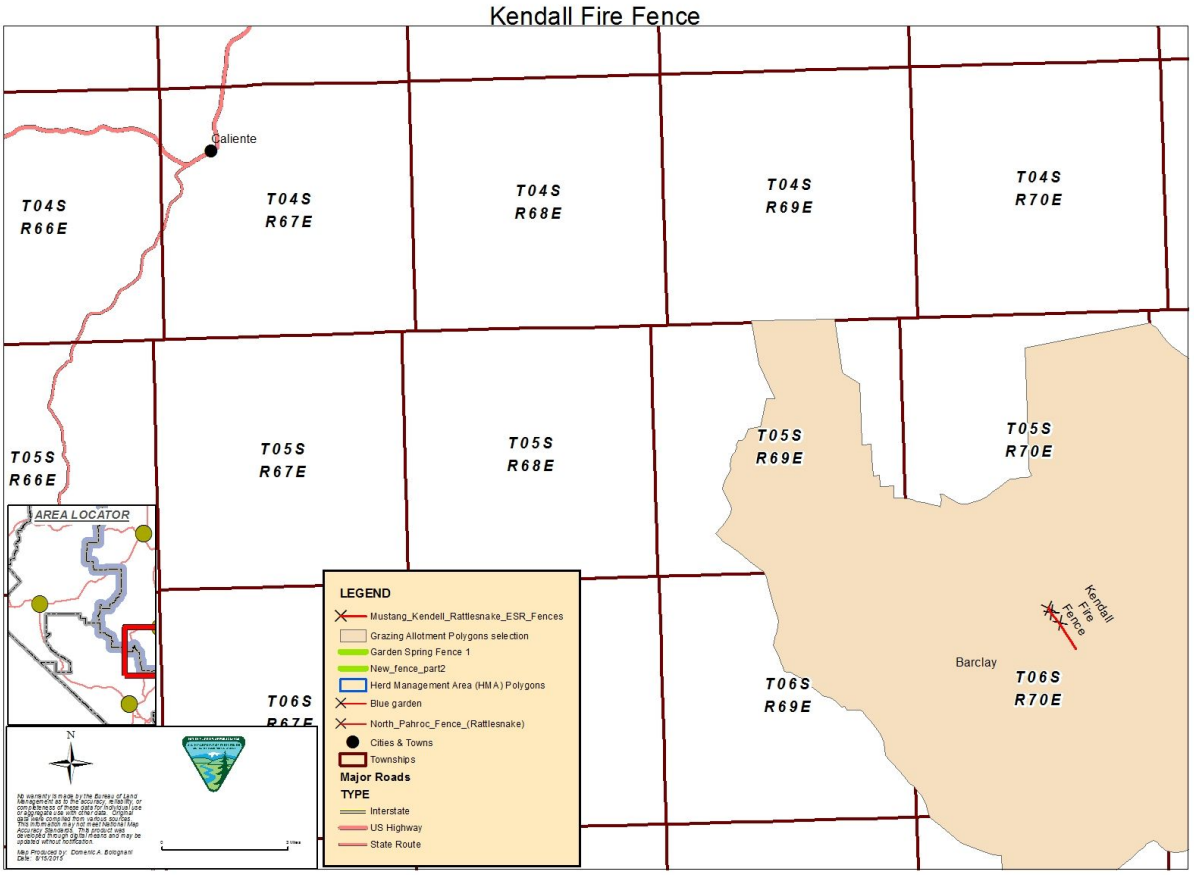

Figure 3.3. Location of the Barclay Allotment with Respect to Surrounding Nevada Towns.

Ignited by lightening, the Kendall Fire (2000) burned approximately 805 acres of pinion-juniper dominated area. The fire consumed most of the pinion-juniper overstory and the burned areas became dominated with annual and perennial grasses and forbs as well as sagebrush. The terrain is semi-rugged with slopes ranging from 5-45%. The burn area was seeded with native and non-native species. The Kendall fire fence was constructed to restrict livestock access to the newly seeded burn area.

The Kendall Fire fence does not occur within desert tortoise habitat, a wilderness or wilderness study area or a Wild Horse Herd Management Area (HMA).

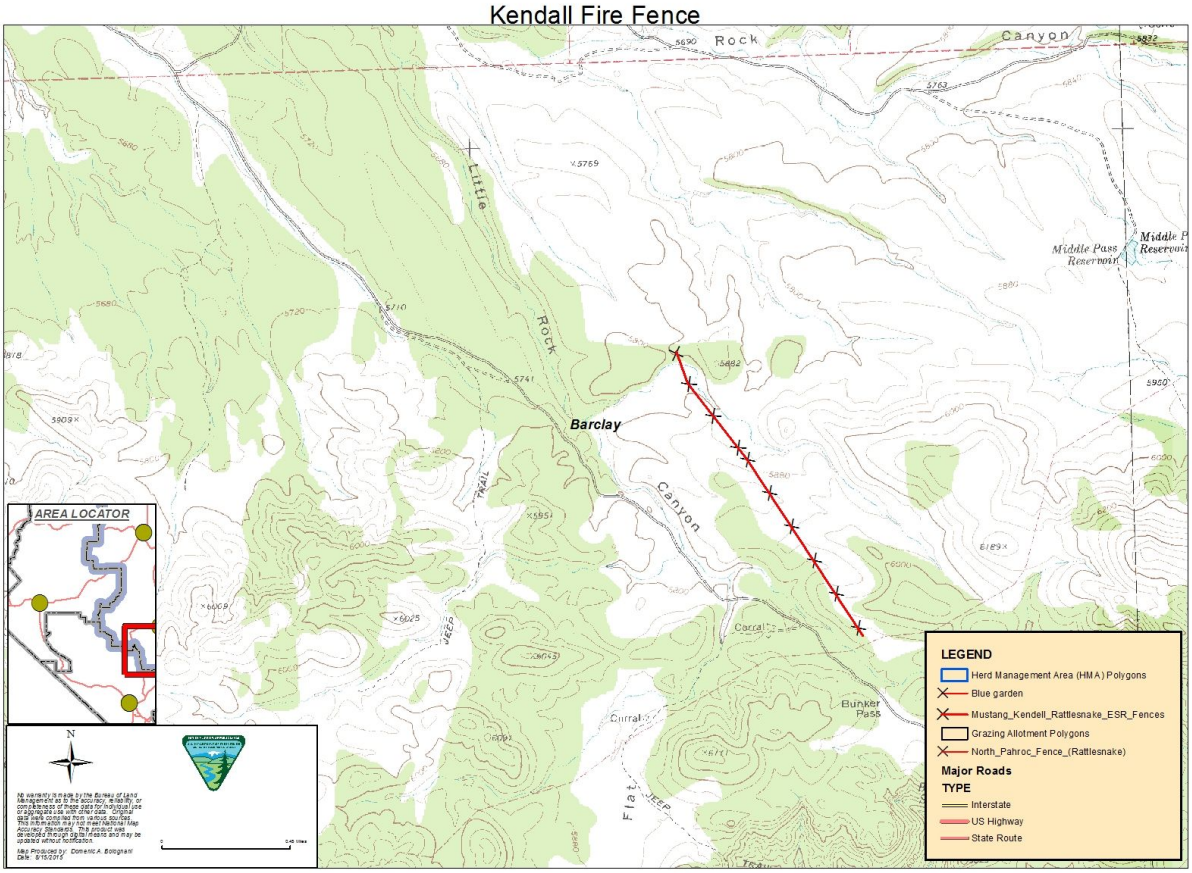

Figure 3.4. Kendall Fire Fence — Barclay Allotment

Garden Spring Allotment

The Garden Spring Allotment is a cattle grazing allotment approximately 39,000 acres in size. The allotment has one grazing permittee. The season of use is from November 1 through April 30.

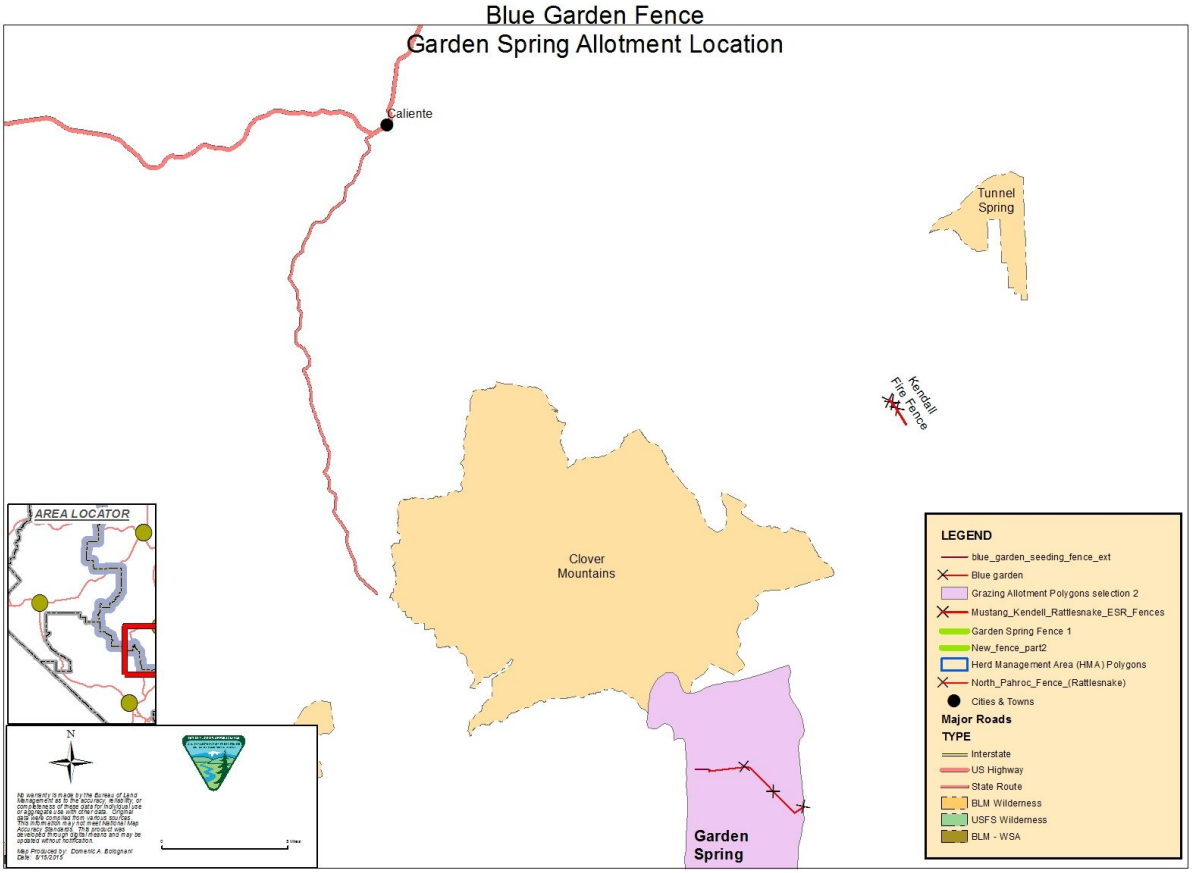

Figure 3.5. Blue Garden Fence — Garden Spring Allotment, Clover Mountains Wilderness, and surrounding Nevada Towns

In 1999 the Blue Garden Fire burned 9,700 acres south of the Clover Mountain WSA (Wilderness Study Area) and 1400 acres within the WSA (this WSA has since been designated as the Clover Mountains Wilderness area) area was located on the southern slope of the Clover Mountain range. Most of the fire was located within the Garden Spring grazing allotment.

The fire burned in a transition zone between the Great Basin and the Mojave Desert. This transition zone ranges from blackbrush *(Coleogyne ramoissisma)*dominated sites to the south to pinion-juniper *(Pinus edulis-Juniperus osteosperna)*dominated sites in the north with chaparral communities in between dominated by live oak *(Quercus turbinella)*.The Blue Garden Fence was constructed to protect the seeding of the burn area.

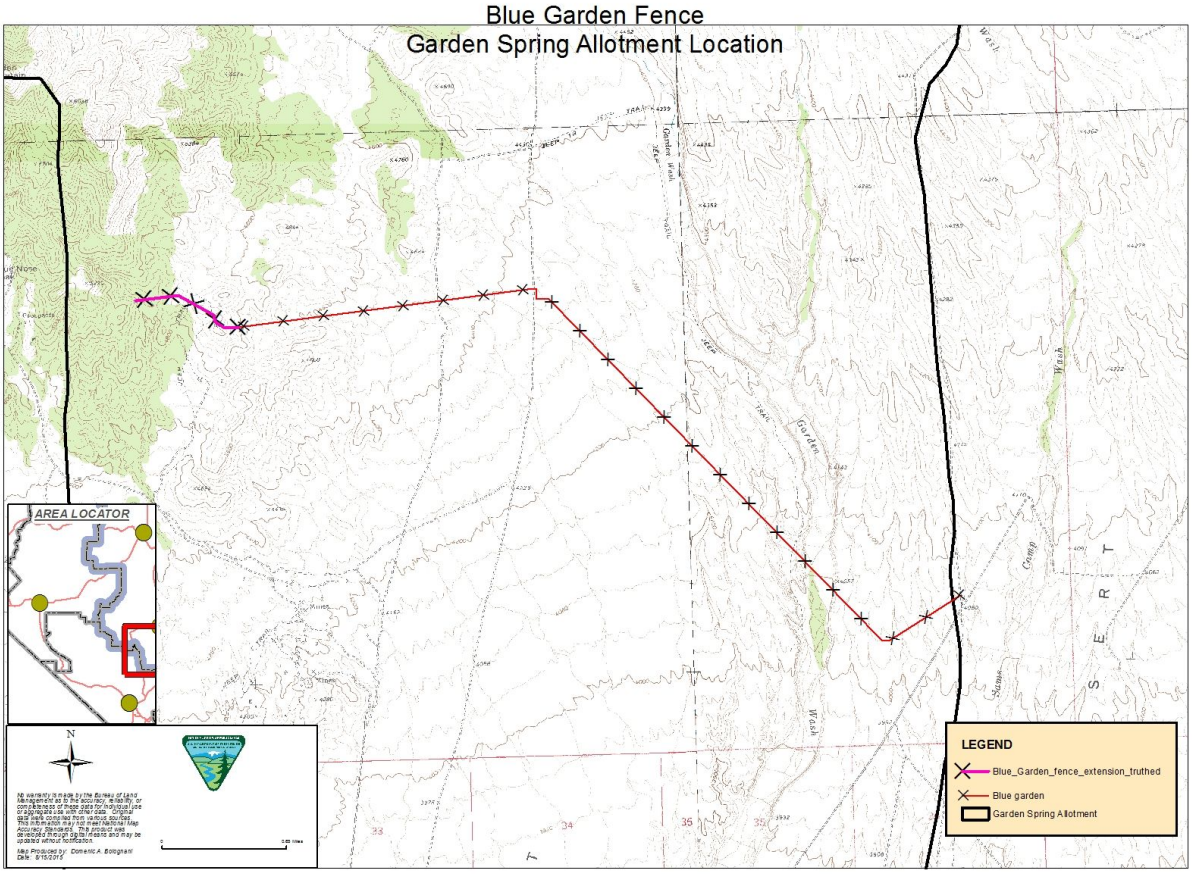

Figure 3.6. Blue Garden Fence — Garden Spring Allotment

Rattlesnake Allotment

The Rattlesnake Allotment is located 20 miles northwest of Caliente, Nevada. The current active AUMs for the approximately 35,000 acre Rattlesnake Allotment is 1,180 AUMs for cattle. The season of use is October 16 to May 30 and there is one permittee authorized on this allotment. Elevations range from 6,500’ to 4,600’. The allotment is adjacent to The Weepah Spring and Big Rocks Wilderness Areas, and the Silver King Horse Management Area.

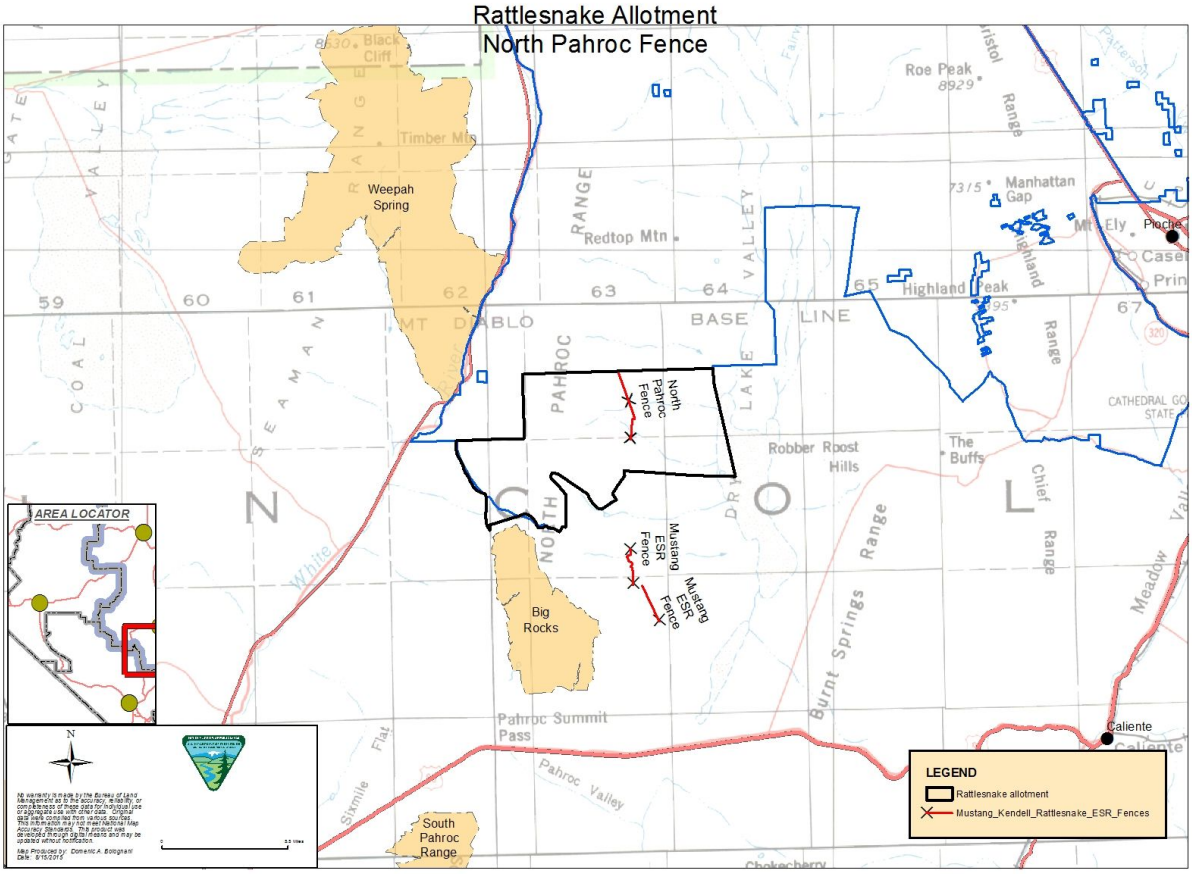

Figure 3.7. Location of the Rattlesnake Allotment with respect to Weepah Spring and Big Rocks Wilderness Areas, Horse Mangement Areas (HMA) and surrounding Nevada towns.

The North Pahroc Fire (Y109) was ignited by lightening on June 6, 2002 and burned 2079 acres of BLM administered land. As a result, 700 acres were reseeded and 3.25 miles of new fence was constructed to protect the seeding until it became established.

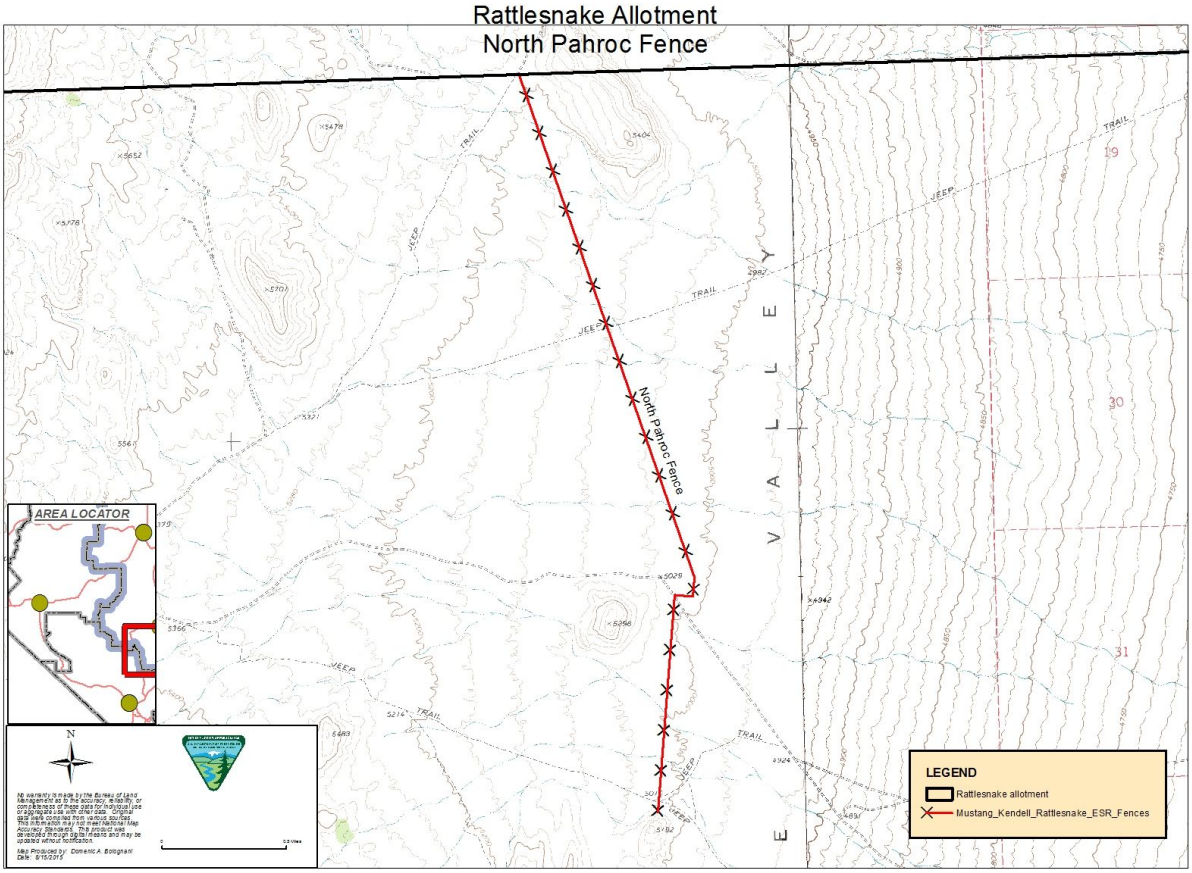

Figure 3.8. North Pahroc Fire Fence —Rattlesnake Allotment

3.4.3.2. Environmental Effects

<u>Mustang Allotment</u>

Currently, the season of use on the allotment is yearlong (3/1 – 2/28).

Constructed of the Mustang fire fence resulted in the division of the north and middle pastures into an approximate east and west half which created six pastures in the allotment. Having six pastures would allow the permittee to utilize a six-pasture rotational grazing system. The rotation system would allow the permittee to conduct spring grazing – especially during the spring critical growing period for plants – in a different pasture each year in a manner that would allow five years of rest before any given pasture was grazed again during the spring critical growing period.

Prior to the construction of the fence, the permittee maintained the option of using a four-pasture rotation system which allowed a maximum of only three years rest before any given pasture was grazed again during the spring critical growing period. However, utilizing a six-pasture rotation

system would further enhance the potential for plants: to further develop above ground biomass (ground cover) to protect soils and provide desirable perennial cover for wildlife; to additionally add litter cover for further soil protection; and to continue to develop root masses which would lend itself to improved carbohydrate storage for plant vigor and reproduction. Subsequently this would result in the promotion of overall forage production and improved range condition.

In summary, there would be an increase in the potential benefits to plant physiology, added soil protection, plant quality and volume of existing forage species, and further reduce the potential for loss of desired plant species. Hence, this would influence the desired forage base in a positive manner.

The fence may provide bird perching opportunities. In addition, tall whitetop (*Cardaria Draba*) has been documented, vicinal to the watering location, in the north central portion of the allotment along the north segment of the Mustang Fire fence. Removing the fence may not only result in additional ground disturbance which could potentially increase the probability of invasive non-native plant species establishment, but also the establishment of the noted noxious weed.

Barclay Allotment

After 15 years the seeding is established and grazing has resumed, but the fence has proven valuable to the grazing operators as it prevents livestock drift and allows more control over the grazing operation. Before the fence was constructed, control of livestock in this portion of the allotment was achieved with watering locations and herding to prevent cattle from drifting to the south on to the northern most portion of the Lime Mountain Allotment (same permittee), which is rugged and difficult to recover livestock from. The fence has helped eliminate this problem.

Garden Spring Allotment

After 15 years the seeding has achieved its potential with the current climate. At this time the fence is no longer needed to protect the seeding. However, the fence has become a valuable range improvement as it creates an upper and lower pasture that allows the operator to graze in accordance with seasonal variation between the higher and lower elevations of the allotment, which range from 5800’ in the north to 3100’ in the south.

One issue with the fence is that it did not extend far enough to the west and left a gap where livestock can navigate around the fence and during different times of the year cattle are prone to drifting between the upper and lower portions of the allotment. Extending the fence 3200’ would eliminate this gap.

Rattlesnake Allotment

Since that time the seeding has achieved its potential and the grazing operation has become habituated to the fence which is now used in a pasture rotation system. The fence, in conjunction with watering locations, enables the operator more management options such as deferred rotation and rest rotation of the pastures created by the fence. This better enables the operation to respond to changes and seasonal variability in forage production and plant health.

Chapter 4. Cumulative Impacts

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4.1. Introduction:

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 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. Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions

Cumulatively, the proposed action would add approximately 3200' to the Blue Garden fence under the Proposed Action. It could be reasonable that future actions could include additions or extensions of existing fencelines, including those constructed for ESR forage protection during rehabilitation. Those additions or extensions would be analyzed under separate NEPA analyses, if those actions are proposed by BLM, grazing permittees, or the public.

4.3. Cumulative Impact Analysis

Cumulative effects are listed for the 12.45 miles of existing ESR fences previously constructed in the four allotments analyzed by resource area in Section 3.4 of this Environmental Assessment, as well as the proposed new fence addition of 3200' in the Garden Spring allotment.

Existing fences are shown on Figures 3.1–3.8.

4.3.1. Wild Horses, Land Use, Grazing Use/Forage

Wild Horses; No cumulative effects to wild horses are anticipated because the ESR fence in the Silver King HMA (North Pahroc fence) is open-ended on its south end and the fence has been in place since 2002 without observed impacts. The Blue Garden ESR Fence is in Blue Nose Peak Herd Area (HA) and these HA's have been slated to be absent for wild horses since the 2008 Ely RMP, although ongoing wild horses do persist on many HA units in the Field Office. Land Use: Although there are three authorized ROWs in the vicinity of Mustang and Kendall fences, the existing fences do not impact the ROWs as mentioned in section 3.4.3.1. Additionally, an extension of the Garden fence would not impact existing ROW as there are none in the vicinity. Grazing Use/Forage: Cumulatively, addition of the four ESR fences and the extension, would permit additional rotation grazing opportunities for BLM's livestock permittees. Cross-allotment fencing, even if open-ended, can better enable livestock operators to respond to changes and seasonal variability in forage production and plant health.

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Chapter 5. Consultation and Coordination:

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5.1. Introduction

The issue identification section of Chapter 3 provides the rationale for issues that were considered but not analyzed further and identifies those issues analyzed in detail in Chapter 3. The issues were identified through the public and agency involvement process described in section 5.3 below.

5.2. List of Preparers

5.2.1. BLM

Table 5.1. List of Preparers

Name	Title	Responsible for the Following Section(s) of this Document
Cameron Boyce	Natural Resource Specialist	Grazing Uses, Noxious Weeds, Weed Risk Assessment, Soils, Water, Air, Vegetation, Fuels
Alicia Styles	Wildlife Biologist	Special status species — plants and animals, Migratory Birds, Fish and Wildlife
Alicia Hankins	Realty Specialist	Lands and Realty
Emily Simpson	Wilderness Planner	Wilderness, Lands with Wilderness Characteristics
Nicholas Pay	Archaelogist / Planning and Environmental Coordinator	Cultural Resources, Paleontological Resources, Environmental Justice
Ruth Thompson	Wild Horse and Burro Specialist	Wild Horse and Burros
Domenic Bolognani	Rangeland Management Specialist	Grazing Uses
Maggie Marston	Assistant Field Manager — Renewables	IDT lead
Carissa Shilling	Geologist	Mineral Resources
Lisa Domina	Recreation Planner	Recreation, Visual Resources

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Acronyms

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

FONSI:
Finding of No Significant Impact

IM:
Instructional Memorandum

NEPA:
National Environmental Policy Act

RFFS:
Reasonably Foreseeable Future Action

RMP:
Resource Management Plan