



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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Black Rock Field Office
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www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo.html

SEP 23 2015

In Reply Refer To:
4100/2920/6300
(NV010.37)

Dear Interested Public:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Black Rock Field Office (BRFO) is soliciting input as it initiates an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposal by DeLong Ranches, Inc. to maintain, reconstruct and access 15 existing range improvements on the Jackson Mountain Allotment. In addition the proposal identifies two access routes to private inholdings within wilderness, and the maintenance of two existing ditches, outside of wilderness, used to convey water for irrigation and stock water, within and adjacent to the North Jackson, South Jackson and Black Rock Wilderness Areas. A map is enclosed for reference.

Activities proposed are in conformance with Section 4(d)(4)(2) of the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964, with Section 2(7) of the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area Act of December, 21, 2000 (NCA) and Public Law 101-628 §101(f) Congressional Grazing Guidelines for Black Rock-High Rock Wilderness Areas, NCA Wilderness Management Plan, along with the regulations at 43 CFR §4100, §2800, §2920, §6304.20 and §6305.10 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA).

DeLong Ranches, Inc. currently manages a ranching operation in Desert Valley, Humboldt County, Nevada. Livestock grazing has occurred in the area since the late 1800's. DeLong Ranches, Inc. holds the grazing preference and permit for the Jackson Mountain Allotment. Range improvements are an important part of the authorized grazing system as they assist in the management and distribution of livestock across the Allotment. Some of the proposed improvements are within the boundaries of the North Jackson, South Jackson, or Black Rock Desert Wilderness areas which are part of the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon-Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area Act (NCA Act), as amended.

The EA would analyze minor and major maintenance actions and the reconstruction of range improvements. Such actions would include the cleaning of reservoirs or catchments, cleaning and maintenance or replacement of troughs, maintenance or replacement of pipelines and headboxes, re-drilling wells and/or replacing infrastructure. The occasional use of power tools and motorized/mechanized equipment needed for the maintenance actions and access to the range improvements and private inholdings surrounded by Wilderness and maintenance of two ditch segments outside of Wilderness would be analyzed and evaluated in this document. The

two ditch segments would be analyzed and evaluated for authorization in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) for rights-of-way.

The public is invited to submit comments relative to the development of an EA within 30 days of the date of this letter. This is also your opportunity to consult with the BLM under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) on potential impacts to cultural and historic properties.

Please send written comments to Julie McKinnon, project lead, at the above address, or email wfoweb@blm.gov with DeLong EA (McKinnon) in the subject line. This letter and a map are also available on the BLM's webpage at <http://on.doi.gov/1AOuPor>.

Public comments submitted for this project, including names and addresses of commenters will be available for public review during regular business hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Please note that your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information that you provide may be made publicly available at any time. While individuals may request that the BLM withhold personal identifying information from public review, BLM cannot guarantee it will be able to do so. If you wish us to withhold your personal information, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses available for public disclosure in their entirety.

If you have any questions, please contact Julie McKinnon at (775) 623-1734 or at the address above.

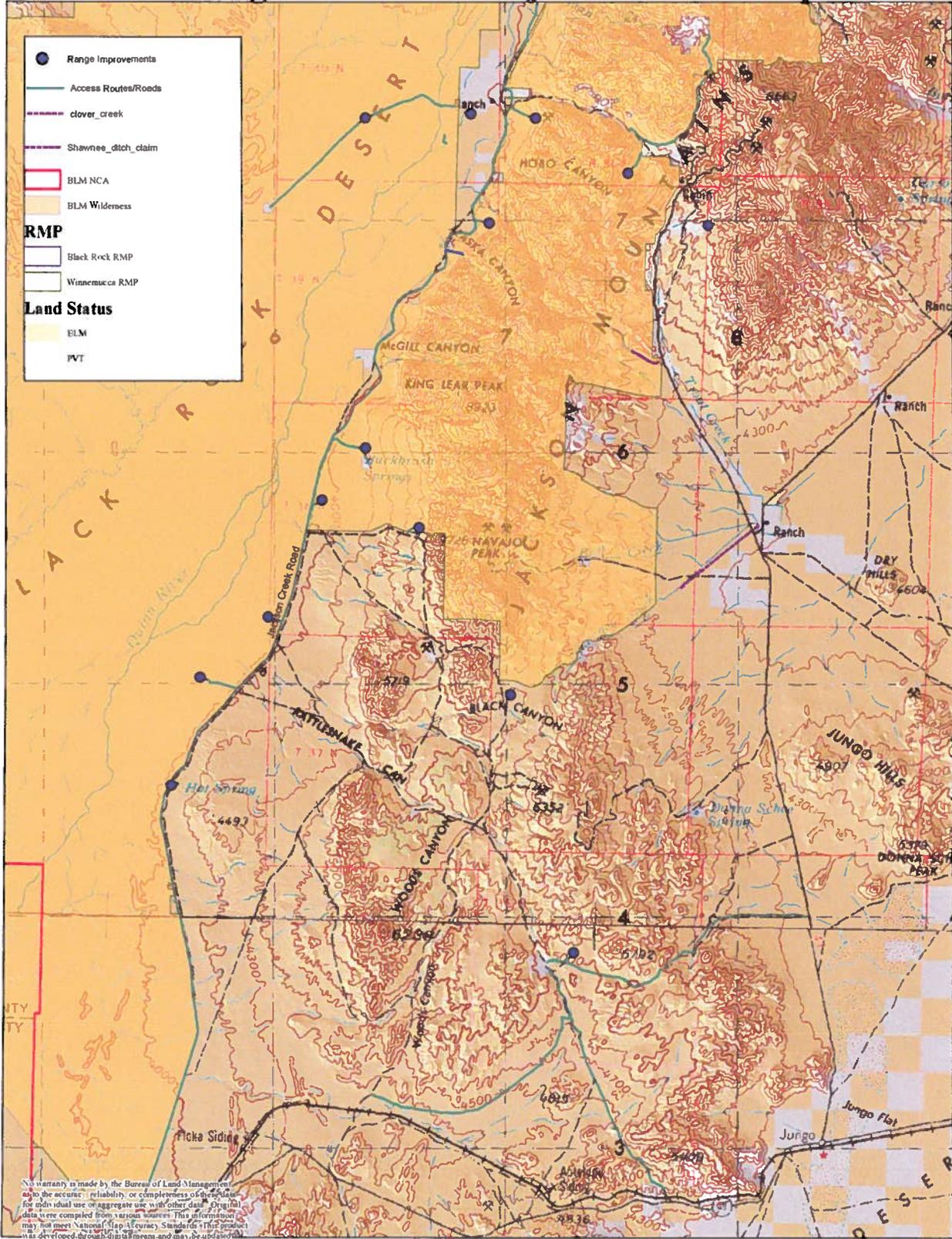
Sincerely,



Mark E Hall
Field Manager
Black Rock Field Office

Enclosure

DeLong RIPs/Access Project Overview Map

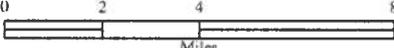


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Jackson Mtns Map



Miles



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Date: 9/22/2015

