



**United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management**

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**September 22, 2005**

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**Environmental Assessment UT- 010-005-011**

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**Nelson – Lynndyl Allotment Boundary Fence Replacement**

**Location:** Sections 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29 & 30 of T. 14S. R. 5 W.

**Applicant/Address:** Jim Nelson  
Lynndyl, UT 84640

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## CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION AND NEED FOR PROPOSED ACTION

### 1.0 Introduction

The Bureau of Land Management proposes to replace the existing allotment boundary fence between the Nelson (#04512) and Lynndyl (#04405) Allotments. The fence is approximately 3.9 miles long. This project is located approximately 4 miles north of Lynndyl, Utah, along the northeast ¼ and north section line of section 28; the north section line of section 29; and the northeast ¼ of section 30 of T. 14S. R. 5 W. If approved the fencing operation would commence in October 2005. The existing fence was constructed prior to 1940 and can no longer be maintained.

### 1.1 Need for the Proposed Action

The existing fence was constructed in the 1940's and can no longer be maintained and must be replaced. A new fence would be constructed in the same location as the existing fence. The new fence would provide management livestock grazing and improve the vegetative cover of the allotments. This fence will be routed approximately ¾ of a mile due to the moving sand dunes along the existing fence-line. The fence-line will not be brushed prior to replacement due to sandy soils. Leaving the vegetation in place will help to hold the sandy soil in place. See Appendix A, Location Map.

### 1.2 Conformance with BLM Land Use Plan(s)

House Range RMP ROD	October 1987
House Range RMP Amendment	September 1993

The proposed action and alternatives described below are in conformance with the House Range Resource Area Management Plan (RMP) approved October 1987.

The RMP, Chapter 2, pg. 15, states, there are over 440 miles of existing fence-line on public lands in the House Range and the majority of the fences consist of barbed wire along cattle allotment boundaries in the Tintic region. The RMP, Chapter 2, pg. 27, states that structural range improvements, such as fences, water developments, cattleguards, etc, will continue to be planned and installed. Therefore, the proposed action to replace the allotment fence is in accordance with the Land Use Plan (LUP).

### 1.3 Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, or other Plans

The Proposed Action complies with the following laws and regulations:

- Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 (43 U.S.C. 315 et. seq.)
- Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.)
- Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978.
- 43 CFR 4100 Grazing Administration-Exclusive of Alaska
- Fundamentals of Rangeland Health (43 CFR 4180)
- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et. seq.)
- Endangered Species Act of 1973

- Clean Air Act of 1955
- Clean Water Act of 1977
- National Historic Preservation Act of 1966

## **CHAPTER 2 DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES**

### **2.0. Introduction**

This Environmental Assessment (EA) focuses on the Proposed Action and No Action alternatives.

Fences are a tool to manage livestock on public lands to prevent overgrazing and promote health of the environment. Fences are routinely constructed and replaced as part of the ongoing management of the public lands and the associated grazing allotments.

### **2.1. Proposed Action**

The proposed fence reconstruction is located of the section line of section 28 and the north section line of section 29 & 30 of T. 14S. R. 5 W where a fence-line is currently located. The current fence is a 4-strand barb wire and the proposed replacement fence is also a 4-strand barb wire. The posts would be a mix of steel and cedar as cedar posts are need for the weight to hold the fence up against the wind and tumbleweeds that blow into the fence. The panels will be steel. Wire spacing would be 16", 22", 28", and 40" from the ground. Steel posts would be spaced one rod apart and every 5 posts would be a cedar post. The posts would be installed by hand or a tractor mounted post driver may be used. The segment of allotment boundary to be replaced is approximately 3.9 miles long. The west ¾ to 1 mile will be rerouted slightly due to current sand dune locations. See Appendix A, Location Map. The first 3 miles along the existing fence-line will be pulled and replaced in the current location. The approximate 1 mile of fence-line not being replaced will be left in place and function as a wind break to hold the sand in place. The fence-line will not be brushed prior to removal of the old fence or installation of the new fence. This is to protect the existing vegetation growing in the sandy areas along the fence-line which will help to hold the sandy soil in place.

Equipment used to construct the fence would include a transport for the tractor, ATV's, pickup truck, trailers, and a vehicle or trailer mounted post pounder.

### **2.2 No Action**

The No Action Alternative would be to deny the fence replacement as proposed. With this alternative the BLM would not approve replacement of the fence-line and the fence-line would remain as-is.

## **CHAPTER 3 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

### **3.0. Introduction and General Setting**

This fence site is located within the Great Basin subdivision of the Basin and Range physiographic province. The ecological site where the fence occurs is a Semi-desert Sand (Fourwing Saltbush) Ecological site with dune land inclusions. The slope ranges from 0 to 10%. The mean annual air temperature is 45 to 52 degrees F and the average frost-free season is 100 to 150 days. The climate is characterized by cold winters and hot summers. The precipitation ranges from 8 to 12 inches with an average of near 9 inches. The soil is very deep with a loamy fine sand texture and was formed in windblown sand and alluvium from sandstone and igneous rocks. The erosion hazard from water is slight and the wind erosion hazard is high. The general composition of this site is Fourwing saltbush and Indian Ricegrass. This area is used for rangeland, wildlife habitat, and recreation uses.

Clearances for threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant and animal species have been completed for the proposed project area. There would be no impact to threatened, endangered or sensitive plants or animals. A cultural resources survey has been completed and no cultural materials were found. Should cultural resources, threatened, endangered, or sensitive species be discovered during construction or the project life activities affecting these resources would cease and the appropriate BLM official at the Fillmore Field Office would be notified.

### **3.1. Proposed Action**

The affected environment and environmental consequences of the proposed action were considered and analyzed by an interdisciplinary team as documented in the interdisciplinary analysis record checklist. The analysis indicates that resources of concern were Invasive, Non-native plants and impacts on wildlife.

Wildlife migration is a concern with the fence being 4-strand rather than 3-strand barbed wire. No evidence was given that the existing 4 strand fence was stopping the migration of antelope or other big game species. The current fence is 4-strand barb and the standard for allotment boundary fences in the Fillmore Field Office is a 4-strand fence. Therefore, a 4-strand fence is chosen type of fence as it is the current type of fence.

Invasive, Non-native plants is concerned about the spread of weed seed during the construction operations. Therefore, equipment will need to be cleaned prior to entering the allotment and before leaving the allotment.

### **3.2. No Action**

No action would deny the replacement of the allotment boundary fence. If the fence-line is not replaced, the allotment boundary fence would cease to exist. Cattle from adjacent allotments would move freely into adjacent allotments and not stay in the permitted locations and grazing distribution would change. There would be areas of overgrazing and areas that were under utilized.

### 3.3. Cumulative Impacts

There would be no direct or indirect environmental impacts from the proposed or no action alternatives, and therefore no cumulative impacts.

## CHAPTER 4 PERSONS, GROUPS, AND AGENCIES CONSULTED

### 4.0 Consultation and Coordination

The proposed action was placed on the Utah BLM Environmental Notification Bulletin Board on February 28, 2005. An interdisciplinary checklist was completed in September 2005. As of September 23, 2005 no comments have been received.

### 4.1 List of Persons, Agencies and Organizations Consulted

**Table 4.1 List Persons, Agencies and Organizations Consulted**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Purpose &amp; Authorities for Consultation or Coordination</b>	<b>Findings &amp; Conclusions</b>
Utah State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)	Consultation for undertakings, as required by the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 USC 470)	SHPO has approved, by letter dated September 15, 2005, that no cultural material were discovered in the cultural resource survey/ (see Appendix B)
Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah	Consultation as required by the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (42 USC 1531) and NHPA (16 USC 1531)	A letter was sent on May 3, 2005 To the Goshute and Paiute Tribes. The Paiute Tribe has responded by letter dated May 13, 2005, and the Goshute Tribe responded by letter dated May 18, 2005, They stated they have no objections to the project.
Jim Nelson	Permittee	He requested that the fence be rebuilt.

### 4.2 List of Preparers

**Table 4.2 List of Preparers**

#### BLM Preparers

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Responsible for the Following Section(s) of this Document</b>
Glen Nebeker	Assistant Field Manager	NEPA Coordinator
Suzanne Mayne	Project Leader and Range Management Specialist	Author & Impact analysis for Soils, Air Quality, Farmlands, & Floodplains
Steve Bonar	Recreation	Impact analysis for ACEC's, Wild & Scenic Rivers, Wilderness/WSA, Recreation, Visual Resources, & Wilderness Characteristics
Joelle McCarthy	Archaeologist	Impact analysis for Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns
R.B. Probert	Weed Specialist	Impact analysis for Invasive, Non-native Species
Dave Whitaker	Range Management Specialist	Impact analysis for TES (Plants)
Mark Pierce	Wildlife Biologist	Impact analysis for TES (Animals) & Wildlife
Jerry Mansfield	Geologist	Impact analysis for Wastes, Geology/Mineral

		<b>Resources, &amp; Energy Resources</b>
<b>Harvey Gates</b>	<b>Range Management Specialist</b>	<b>Impact analysis for Water Quality, Rangeland Health Standards &amp; Guidelines, Range Management, &amp; Water Rights</b>
<b>Bill Thompson</b>	<b>Range Management Specialist</b>	<b>Impact analysis for Wetlands/Riparian Zones</b>
<b>Brent Crosland</b>	<b>Range Technician</b>	<b>Impact analysis for Woodland/Forestry</b>
<b>Clara Stevens</b>	<b>Realty Specialist</b>	<b>Impact analysis for Lands/Access</b>
<b>Justin Johnson</b>	<b>Fuels Program Manager</b>	<b>Impact analysis for Fuels/Fire Management</b>
<b>Eric Reid</b>	<b>Wild Horse &amp; Burro Specialist</b>	<b>Impact analysis for Wild Horses &amp; Burros</b>

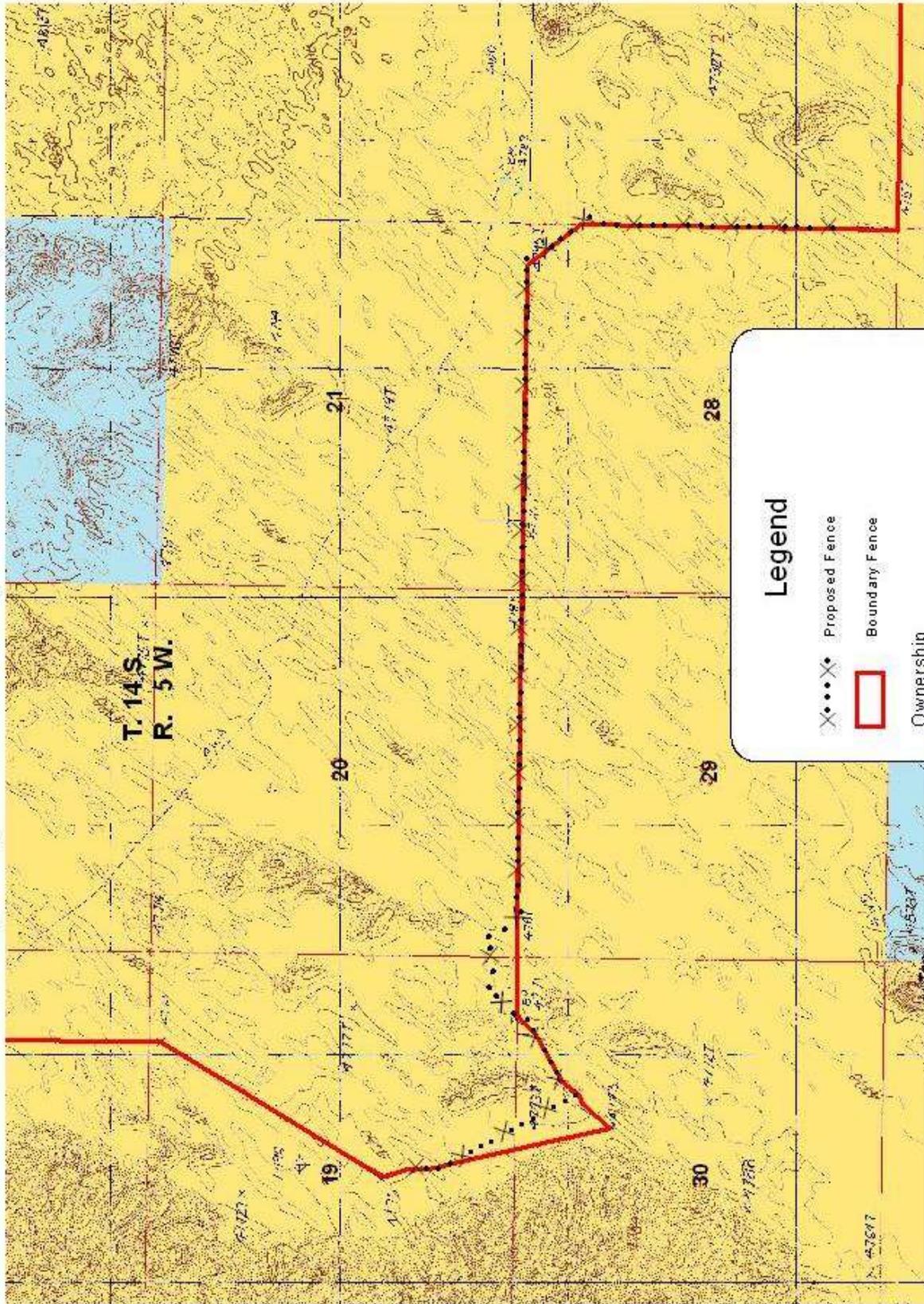
**APPENDICES:**

**Appendix A: Location Map**

**Appendix B: State Historic Preservation Letter**

**APPENDIX A**  
**LOCATION MAP**

# Nelson - Lynndyl Allotment Replacement Fence Proposal



T. 14 S.  
R. 5 W.

### Legend

- X...X Proposed Fence
- Boundary Fence
- Ownership
  - Yellow Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
  - Blue State



Suzanne Mayne  
Fillmore Field Office  
February 16, 2005



**APPENDIX B**

**STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION LETTER**