



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Wells Field Office

3900 East Idaho Street

Elko, Nevada 89801

http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko_field_office.html

In Reply Refer To:

6512, 6711 (LLNVE0300)

March 2, 2016

Dear Interested Parties:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Elko District Wells Field Office (WFO) is proposing to complete a vegetation treatment project to protect, improve, and restore habitat for various wildlife species, especially Greater Sage-Grouse (GRSG), and restore natural vegetative conditions in the O'Neil Project Planning Area (PPA) in northeastern Elko County (see attached map). The project area is in the northeast portion of the Elko District, and includes the O'Neil PPA as identified by the Northern Great Basin Fire and Invasive Assessment Team (FIAT), and in conformance with the Nevada and Northeastern California Greater Sage-Grouse Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment (ARMPA), approved September 18, 2015.

The restoration goals for this project are:

- Promote healthy woodland resources by removing stressed and diseased trees
- Reduce hazardous fuels thereby reducing the threat of a large-scale wildfire
- Restore and maintain GRSG habitat to meet or make progress towards the Habitat Objectives outlined in Table 2-2 of the ARMPA
- Reduce the establishment and expansion of invasive annual grasses and noxious weeds throughout the project area
- Restore previous wildfire affected areas with desired vegetation

This restoration project may entail several different treatment methods including but not limited to the methods described below:

- Fuels reduction (e.g., thinning, mowing, herbicide, and pile burning)
- Restoration (e.g., seedling planting, seeding)
- Conifer reduction (e.g., thinning, mastication, herbicide)
- Post Fire Rehabilitation: seeding disturbed burned areas with desired species.

We are requesting your input regarding development and analysis of the proposed action and alternatives. To ensure your comments can be considered as BLM prepares an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this project, please respond by April 12, 2016. Comments can be

mailed to the mailing address listed above, or they can be emailed to “BLM_NV_EKD_ONEIL_PPA_PROJECT@blm.gov”. We would like you to be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available. Please consider this before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment. If you ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

If you have no comments but want to remain on the mailing list, or if you need additional information about the project, please call Dylan Rader, Project Lead, at (775) 753-0321. Thank you for your interest in the management of public lands in northeastern Nevada.

Sincerely,

/s/ Melanie Mitchell

Melanie Mitchell
Field Manager (Acting)
Wells Field Office

Enclosure: Project Vicinity Map
CC:

333 Ranch LLC
American Ag Credit
American Farm Mortgage
American Sportfishing Association
American Wildhorse Preservation Campaign
Antelope Peak Ranch LLC
Archery Trade Association
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Bear Trust International
Bedke’s K-Savy Ranch, Inc.
Bell Brand Ranch
Bert and Paula Brackett
Bilbao Ranch LLC
Bill and Rita Horn
Billana Family Trust

Nevada Department of Agriculture
Nevada Department of Transportation
Nevada Department of Wildlife
Nevada Division of Forestry
Nevada High Country Tours
Nevada State Clearing House
No Bits LLC
North American Bear Foundation
North American Grouse Partnership
Northwest Farm Credit Services
NV Energy
O’Neil Grazing Association LLC
Open Box Arrow Ranches LLC
Oregon-California Trails Association
Orion – The Hunter Institute

Boies Ranches, Inc.
Boone and Crockett Club of America
Bowhunting Preservation Alliance
Boyd Spratling
Britton Ranch LLC, Jeffrey T. Britton
Bureau of Indian Affairs Eastern Nevada Agency
Cactus Pete's Inc.
Callan W. Payton
Campfire Club of America
Capps Geoscience
Carl F. and Herbert M. Uhlig
Catch A Dream Foundation
Conagra Beef Company, Monfort Finance Co.
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Conservation Force
Cottonwood Ranch
Cross Ranch Grazing LLC
D.L. Evans Bank
Dallas Safari Club
Dalton Livestock
Delta Waterfowl Foundation
Dorsey Land LLC
Double Mountain LLC
Ducks Unlimited
Elko County
ELLC Grazing Membership LLC
Eureka Livestock LLC
Farm Credit Bank of Sacramento
Friends of Nevada Wilderness
Grande Ranch LLC
Holland and Hart LLP
Houston Safari Club
Howell Ranch LLC
Hugh Feiss
Izaak Walton League of America
James M. and Edward H. Smiley
Jon Marvel
LRS Properties III L.P.
Karen Klitz
Kathy Gregg
Kelly Warr
Kinder Morgan
Leta Collard
Louis D. and Ruby L. Uhart
Martha P. Hoots
Mary's River Ranch

Overland Land and Livestock
Peavey and Hoots
Peavey Cattle Company
Pequop Conservancy LLC
Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever
Pleasant Valley Grazing Association
Pope and Young Club
Public Lands Foundation
Quality Deer Management Association
R & S Enterprise
Rafter Diamond Land Company LLC
Rafter Diamond Ranch
Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation
Red Rock Audubon Society
Resource Concepts, Inc.
Rex Claridge and Dell Nielson
Robert J. and Shane R. Mathews
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Ruffed Grouse Society
Safari Club International
Salmon River Cattleman's Association Inc.
Sand County Foundation
Sierra Club
Sierra Club Toiyabe Chapter
Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers
Institute
William Craig and Boyd M. Spratling
Sustainable Grazing Coalition
Texas Wildlife Association
The Wilderness Society
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Trails West, Inc.
Tread Lightly!, Inc.
Trout Creek Ranches LLC
Twin Meadows LLC
U.S. Congressman Mark Amodei
U.S. Senator Dean Heller
U.S. Senator Harry Reid
U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Union Pacific Railroad
University of Nevada, Reno
UNR Cooperative Extension Service
U.S.F.S. Mountain City Ranger District
Von L. and Marian Sorensen
W.H. Gibbs Company

Masters of Foxhounds Association
Metropolitan Life Insurance Company
Michael T. and Cheri A. Howell
Mike Morrison
Mike Poulton
Montana Gold Mining Company
Mule Deer Foundation
National Mustang Association Inc.
National Oilwell Varco
National Rifle Association of America
National Sports Shooting Foundation
National Trails Intermountain Region NPS
National Trappers Association
National Wild Turkey Federation
Natural Resource Conservation Service
Natural Resources Defense Council
Natural Resources Management Advisory Commission
Naveran Family Trust / Clark Family Living Trust
Nevada Cattleman's Association

Walter and Tennille Whitaker
Wells Rural Electric Company
Western Ag Credit
Western Shoshone Committee
Western Shoshone Defense Council
Western Shoshone Defense Project
Western Shoshone Descendants of Big Smoky
Western Watersheds Project
Whitetail's Unlimited
Wild Sheep Foundation
Wildlands Defense
Wildlife Forever
Wildlife Management Institute, Inc.
William C. and Jean M. Spratling
Winchell Ranch
Winecup Ranch LLC
Winecup – Gamble Ranch LLC
Y3 II Ranch