



# United States Department of the Interior



## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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[http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/battle\\_mountain\\_field.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/battle_mountain_field.html)

In Reply Refer To:

NVN-94284

DOI-BLM-NV-B010-2015-0074-EA

2800 (LLNVB0100)

Dear Interested Party:

Commnet of Nevada, LLC (“Commnet”) submitted a Plan of Development (POD) to the BLM in July 2015 along with BLM Form SF-299 (1/2006) Application for the Transportation and Utility Systems and Facilities on Federal Lands. A revised SF-299 Form and POD were submitted in February 2016. Commnet is requesting a 30-year right-of-way (ROW) grant for an upgrade to approximately 748 linear feet of a 20-foot wide existing partially reclaimed access road, and a 100-foot by 100-foot wireless communication tower site on public land, for a total of approximately 0.5 acre. The ROW would also grant use of an existing road for access, approximately 6.8 miles long and 12 feet wide. Five specific areas along the access road would need to be improved for safe construction vehicle passage (Road Improvement Zones) and total approximately 1.4 acres. The total surface disturbance associated with this ROW is approximately 1.9 acres. Disturbance outside the ROW is not anticipated; however, any incidental disturbance that may occur would be reclaimed immediately.

The Project is being proposed as part of Commnet’s efforts to meet the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Mobility Fund obligations. The Mobility Fund Phase I Auction offered support to wireless communication carriers that committed to providing advanced mobile voice and broadband services in areas where services were unavailable. The FCC defined qualifying road miles (currently uncovered roads) within each census tract in qualifying counties and allowed carriers to place a bid to cover those roads with third generation (often called “advanced” or “3G”) service within two years. Winning bidders were required to provide coverage to a minimum of 75 percent of the eligible road miles within each census tract identified. Eligible road miles in Eureka County totaled approximately 729 miles, and eligible road miles in Lander County totaled approximately 994 miles. Commnet submitted an extension with the FCC, which was granted for only one year through an upgrade from “3G” service to fourth generation (“4G”) service.

The BLM prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this project. Pursuant to NEPA and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations on implementing NEPA, the EA identified and analyzes the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project and identified resource protection measures that would mitigate these potential impacts. The EA was available for a 15-day public comment period. Comments on this EA were accepted until 4:30 p.m., May 26, 2016.

The Final EA and Communications Use Lease ("Lease") are also available at the National NEPA Register web page at:

[https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa\\_register.do](https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do)

To navigate to the project webpage (from the link above), scroll down to and select "Nevada" in the "State(s)" list; this will populate the "Office(s)" list; select "NV – Mount Lewis FO". Then click the "Search" button. This will take you to a list of projects. Find and select this project (DOI-BLM-NV-B010-2015-0074-EA) to display the project webpage. Navigate through the project webpage using the links on the left.

As a result of the analysis presented in the Final EA and Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI), it was my decision to approve the Proposed Action for Commnet's Tonkin Summit Communications Site. This decision is issued under the The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, Part 2800 of Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (43 CFR 2800), and was effective immediately upon signing of the Lease.

The Final EA and Lease are available on the BLM, Battle Mountain District web page at:

[http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/battle\\_mountain\\_field/blm\\_information/national\\_environmental.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/battle_mountain_field/blm_information/national_environmental.html)

In addition, copies of the Final EA and Lease may be obtained by notifying the Mount Lewis Field Office at the letterhead address above.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this proposal, please contact Russell Webb at (775) 635-4161.

Sincerely,



Jon D. Sherve  
Field Manager  
Mount Lewis Field Office