

Environmental Assessment: Four Site Post and Cable Fencing

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Chapter 1. Introduction

1.1. Identifying Information:

1.1.1. Title, EA number, and type of project:

Four Site Post and Cable Fencing, DOI-BLM-NV-S010-2010-0183-EA

1.1.2. Location of Proposed Action:

Location:

Northeast corner of the intersection of Hollywood and Alto

Northeast corner of the intersection of Bradley and Iron Mountain

Along Torino between Quarterhorse and Riley, along Riley between Torino and Ford, along Ford from Riley to private land

Along Van Allen between Stoneheather and Eldora, along Eldora between Van Allen and Cimarron (on BLM land)

Legal Description:

Mount Diablo Meridian

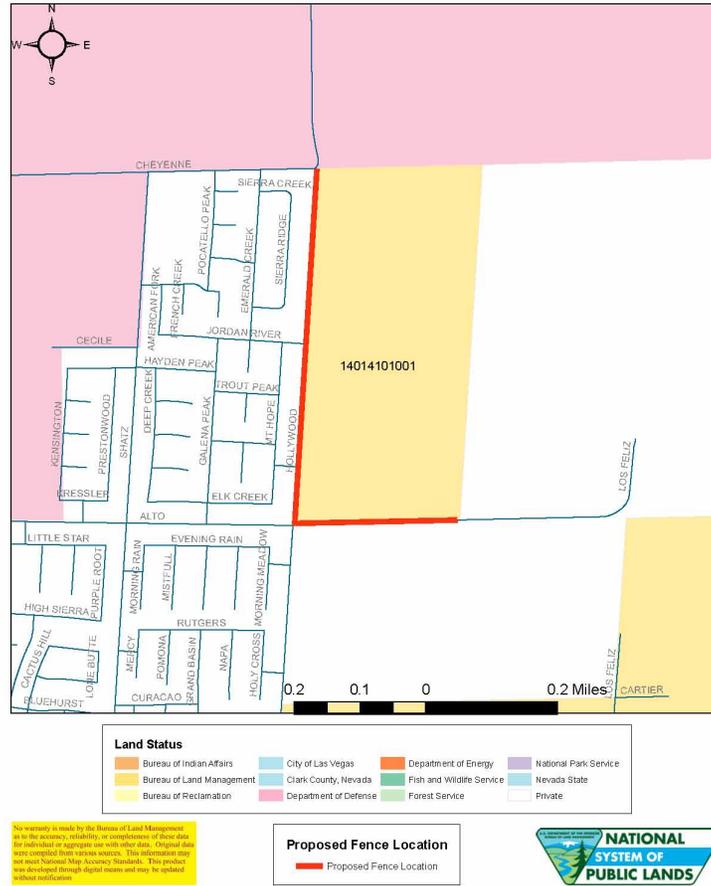
T. 20S R. 62E Section 14, Parcel Number 14014101001

T. 19S R. 60E Section 1, Parcel Number 12501701001

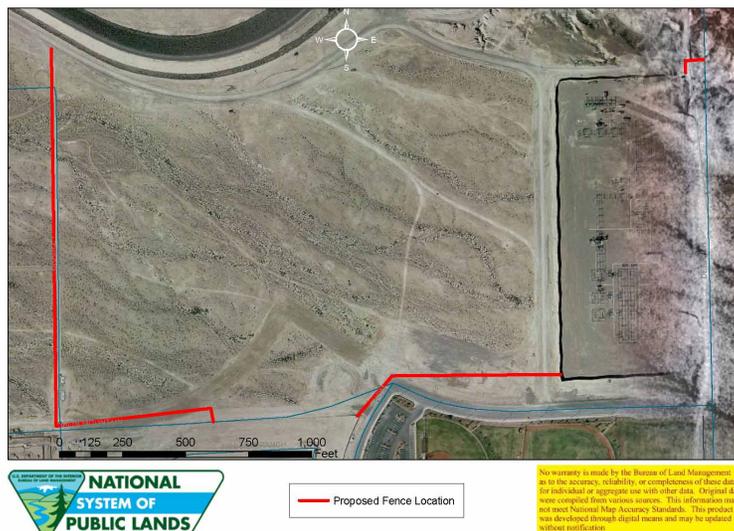
T. 22S R. 60E Section 17, Parcel Number 17617801019

T. 21S R. 60E Section 9, Parcel Number 16309201007

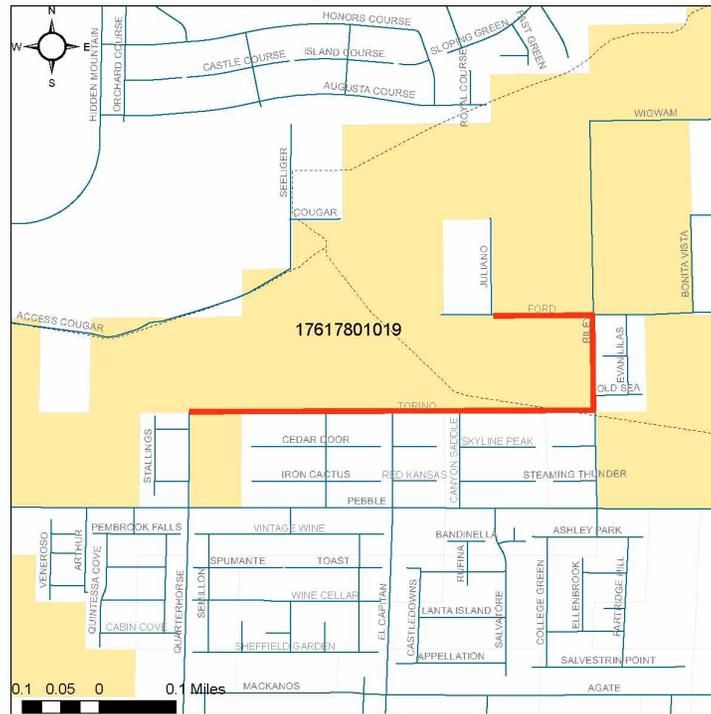
Proposed Fence Location: Hollywood and Alto



Proposed Post and Cable Fence Location



Proposed Fence Location: Riley and Torino



Land Status

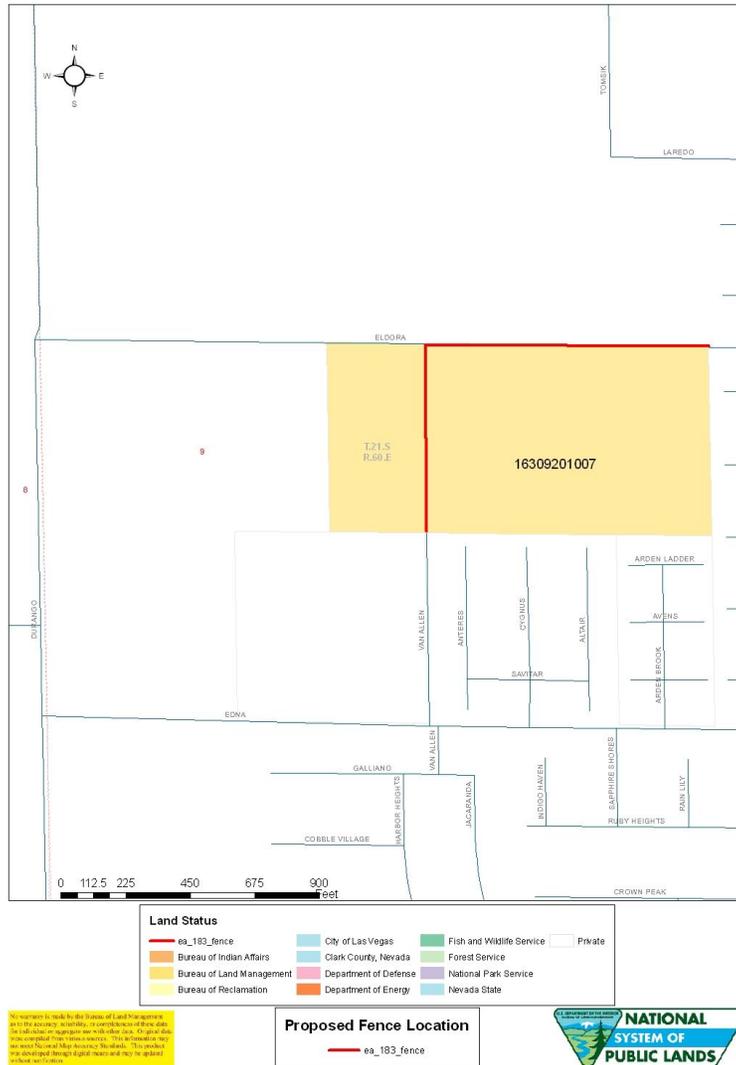
Bureau of Indian Affairs	City of Las Vegas	Department of Energy	National Park Service
Bureau of Land Management	Clark County, Nevada	Fish and Wildlife Service	Nevada State
Bureau of Reclamation	Department of Defense	Forest Service	Private

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.

Proposed Fence Location
 Proposed Fence Location



Proposed Fence Location: Durango & Eldora



1.1.3. Name and Location of Preparing Office:

Lead Office - Las Vegas FO and number LLNVS01000

1.1.4. Applicant Name:

BLM

1.2. Purpose and Need for Action:

The purpose of this project is to construct a post and cable fence to deter the abuse of public lands via illegal OHV use and illegal dumping activity. Illegal dumping and illegal OHV use

Chapter 1 Introduction

Name and Location of Preparing Office:

are public health and safety issues and numerous sites throughout the Las Vegas Valley are subject to repeated violation.

The need for this project is to comply with the BLM Las Vegas RMP section AR-1 and its requirement to comply with local, state, and federal air quality regulations. Clark County Air Quality Regulations Section 90 requires measures to be taken to limit disturbance on vacant lands due to illegal OHV use and illegal dumping.

1.3. Scoping, Public Involvement and Issues:

Internal scoping was performed to determine potential issues on the proposed project parcels. Shadow Ridge High School Cross Country events take place on parcel 12501701001 and could be affected by a fence; a permit for the use of this parcel by the school is being reviewed.

External scoping was performed for parcel 12501701001 due to potential conflicts with NV Energy ROW. Buried distribution lines and buried water lines exist on the parcel and overhead transmission lines might effect fence placement on certain portions of the parcel. NV Energy has been consulted about the best way to mitigate any potential problems.

The construction company performing work parcel adjacent to the west of parcel 16309201007 has been consulted and is building a continuation of Van Allen Street which will not affect the proposed project.

Chapter 2. Proposed Action and Alternatives

2.1. Description of the Proposed Action:

The proposed sites are four parcels about which the BLM receives repeated complaints from the public, Clark County Code Enforcement, and the Southern Nevada Health District about illegal dumping and illegal OHV activity. Efforts in the form of community cleanups, coordinator cleanups, destruction of OHV tracks, watering disturbed areas to stabilize soils, and signing have taken place numerous times on each site since 2008. Post and cable fences placed in other BLM managed areas have proven effective in controlling illegal activity.

The BLM proposes to construct:

4070 feet of post and cable fence along the western and southern edges of parcels 14014101001;

4535 feet of post and cable fence along certain boundaries on parcel 12501701001;

4000 feet of post and cable fence along Torino between Quarterhorse and Riley, along Riley between Torino and Ford, along Ford from Riley to private land on parcel 17617801019;

1630 feet of post and cable fence along the west and north edges of parcel 16309201007

Construction would be completed by the BLM Fire Crew during the off-season for fire. The posts will be reclaimed wooden railroad ties which are dark brown and have a 7" by 9" footprint. The posts will be placed in 36" deep holes dug by an auger attachment on a tractor, hand auger, or hand tools. The equipment will travel on existing roads and previously disturbed areas outside or along any rights-of-way. A water truck will be used to reduce dust emissions. All work areas, equipment storage, and lay down areas will be located within previously disturbed areas. No new disturbance will result from this project. Access will be maintained for various rights-of-way that exist on the respective parcels. Larger spacing between the posts will be set at appropriate locations with a gate or locks and chain between them. All stakeholders will have access to the rights-of-way.

2.2. Description of Alternatives Analyzed in Detail:

Under the No Action Alternative, no fences would be built and current methods to remove illegally dumped refuse and stabilize soils would continue indefinitely.

2.3. Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis

No alternatives were considered.

2.4. Conformance

The EA is in conformance with the NV Las Vegas RMP.

Date Approved: October 5, 1998

The proposed action is in conformance with the Las Vegas Resource Management Plan (RMP) and complies with the following objectives and management direction:

AR-1-b — Permit only those activities on BLM-administered lands that are consistent with Federal, State, and local air quality standards and regulations. Require that all appropriate air quality permits are obtained before BLM approval of an action is granted. Where applicable, demonstrate how proposed management actions comply with local, state, tribal and Federal air quality laws, regulations and standards.

Clark County Air Quality Regulations Section 90: Fugitive Dust from Open Areas and Vacant Lots — If open areas and vacant lots are 5,000 square feet or larger and are disturbed by any means, including use by motor vehicles, off-road motor vehicles or material dumping, then the owner/operator of such open areas and vacant lots shall implement one or more of the control measures described in Subsection 90.2.1.1. Subsection 90.2.1.1(a) describes control measures that can include barriers, fences, gates, posts, signs, etc.

Chapter 3. Affected Environment:

The table below summarizes the environmental attributes that have been reviewed by the respective specialists. Resources not present (NP) in the project areas will not be discussed further. Resources present but not impacted (NI) will not be discussed further unless the potential exists for impacts to the resource.

Table 3.1. Affected Resources

Deter- mina- tion	Resource	Rationale for Determination	Digital check off	Date
NI	Air Quality	No Issues	Lisa Christianson, Air Resources Specialist	09/13/2010
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	The proposed project area is not within an ACEC or any critical desert tortoise habitat on BLM managed lands.	Jayson Barangan	10/6/10
NP	BLM Natural Areas	There are no such designations within the District.	Sendi Kalcic	09/21/2010
NP	Cultural Resources	All of the parcels proposed for fencing have either been inventoried (BLM Cultural Resource report 5–2467) or are exempt from Section 106 review as set forth in BLM Cultural Report 5–2121. None of the proposed fence locations are located in the four sensitive zones for cultural resources in the Las Vegas Valley. No further evaluation is required.	Susanne Rowe	09/29/2010
NI	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Currently there are no emission limits for suspected Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, and no technically defensible methodology for predicting potential climate changes from GHG emissions. However, there are, and will continue to be, several efforts to address GHG emissions from federal	Lisa Christianson, Air Resources Specialist	09/13/2010

		activities, including BLM authorized uses.		
NI	Environmental Justice	Any minority or low-income communities in project area would not be affected by this action since it is localized and intended to increase public safety and improve the aesthetics of the neighborhood.	John Evans	09/14/2010
NP	Farmlands (Prime or Unique)	There are no prime or unique farmland designations in the district.	Krystal Johnson	09/15/2010
NI	Fish and Wildlife Excluding Federally Listed Species	See EA language below.	Jayson Barangan	10/6/10
NP	Floodplains	Not present	Sarah Peterson	9/15/2010
NI	Fuels/Fire Management	No Impacts.	Greg Marfil	9/16/2010
NI	Geology / Mineral Resources/Energy Production	No mining claims or mining operations present. Mineral materials will not be severed from the property by this action. Construction of the Clark County Police Substation is expected to begin soon on the parcel immediately to the west of the fence. A mineral material contract has been negotiated with the BLM for the removal of sand and gravel.	Evan Allen	9/17/2010
NI	Hydrologic Conditions	No impact to local hydrologic conditions.	Sarah Peterson	9/15/2010
NI	Invasive Species/ Noxious Weeds	Standard stipulations apply that require equipment and personnel to arrive and exit the sites free of soil and vegetation.	Nora Caplette	9/15/10
NI	Lands/Access	No issues as long as there is access for ROW holders to have access to their ROW areas.	Kerri-Anne Thorpe	09/13/2010
NP	Livestock Grazing	The proposed sites are not in authorized grazing allotments.	Krystal Johnson	09/15/2010

NI	Migratory Birds	As there will be no new surface disturbance associated with the proposed action, there will be no impact on migratory birds.	Jayson Barangan	10/6/10
NP	Native American Religious Concerns	No issues.	Susanne Rowe	09/29/2010
NP	Paleontology	No issues.	Susanne Rowe	09/29/2010
NI	Rangeland Health Standards	The proposed fence installation will not negatively impact rangeland health.	Krystal Johnson	09/15/2010
NI	Recreation	No impacts to recreation.	Marilyn Peterson	9/27/2010
NI	Socio-Economics	This project will not adversely nor beneficially impact social or economic values.	John Evans	09/14/2010
NI	Soils	No impact to local soil resources	Sarah Peterson	9/15/2010
NP	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species	Not present	Katie Kleinick	9/21/2010
NI	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species	See EA language below.	Jayson Barangan	10/6/10
	Wastes (hazardous or solid)			
NI	Water Resources/ Quality (drinking/ surface/ground)	No impact to water quality or local water resources.	Sarah Peterson	9/15/2010
NP	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	Not present	Sarah Peterson	9/15/2010
NP	Wild and Scenic Rivers	Not present	Marilyn Peterson	9/27/2010
NP	Wilderness/WSA	The proposed action is not located within or adjacent to designated Wilderness, WSAs. or ISAs.	Sendi Kalcic	09/21/2010

NI	Woodland / Forestry	Cactus and yucca are considered government property and regulated under the BLM Nevada forestry program. As the proposed action will not result in any surface or vegetation disturbance and vehicles and equipment will be restricted to established roads and other disturbed areas, no impacts to cactus and yucca are expected. The proposed action will have an overall benefit to cactus and yuccas and their habitat.	Katie Kleinick	9/21/2010
NI	Vegetation Excluding Federally Listed Species	As the proposed action will not result in any surface or vegetation disturbance and vehicles and equipment will be restricted to established roads and other disturbed areas, no impacts are expected. The proposed action will have an overall benefit to plant species and their habitat.	Katie Kleinick	9/21/2010
NI	Visual Resources	The proposed action is located within and meets the objectives for VRM Class III and VRM Class IV. The level of change to the characteristic landscape will be negligible and would not dominate the view of the casual observer.	Sendi Kalcic	09/21/2010
NP	Wild Horses and Burros	The proposed sites are not in an active herd management area.	Krystal Johnson	09/15/2010

NP	Areas with Wilderness Characteristics	<p>The proposed action is located in areas which were inventoried and completed the requirements for wilderness characteristics analysis and recommendations per Section 603 of FLPMA. The following is a summary of the Wilderness Inventory Unit (WIU) Number/Name and determination:</p> <p>NV-050-04R-14/Royale the entire unit was dropped from further wilderness consideration following the initial inventory.</p> <p>NV-050-04R-15/Nellis the entire unit underwent an accelerated inventory due to a special project and was released from further wilderness consideration.</p>	Sendi Kalcic	09/21/2010

Wildlife

Several common species of reptiles that may be present in the vicinity of the proposed project site may include the western whip-tail (*Cnemidophorus tigris*), desert iguana (*Dipsosaurus dorsalis*), side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburniana*), zebra-tail lizard (*Callisaurus draconoides*), desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), western shovel-nosed snake (*Chionactis occipitalis*) and garter snake (*Thamnophis* sp.). Common bird species that may be present in the vicinity of the proposed project site may include the rock wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*). The proposed project area is adjacent to lands that support wildlife characteristic of the Mojave Desert. Biological diversity varies according to topography, plant community, and proximity to water, soil type, and season.), black-throated sparrow (*Amphispiza quinquestriata*), turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), common raven (*Corvus corax*), phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), and western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugea*). Common mammal species include the black-tailed hare (*Lepus californicus*), the desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), badger (*Taxidea taxus*), kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis*) and many species of rodents.

BLM Sensitive Wildlife Species

BLM sensitive species are species that require special management consideration to avoid potential future listing under ESA and that have been identified in accordance with procedures set forth in BLM Manual 6840. The following sensitive species are known to potentially occur within the parcel: western burrowing owl. Western burrowing owl occur in washes and Mojave Desert scrub uplands in undeveloped parcels. Western burrowing owls are also known to occur in disturbed areas such as undeveloped lots.

Threatened, Endangered Species

Threatened and endangered species are placed on a federal list by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and receive protection under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended. The only T species known to occur in the vicinity of the project area is the threatened desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*). In the Mojave region, the desert tortoise occurs primarily on flats and bajadas with soils ranging from sand to sandy-gravel characterized by scattered shrubs and abundant inter-shrub space for herbaceous plant growth. They are also found on rocky terrain and slopes. This project lies within the Las Vegas Valley programmatic area and falls adjacent to low density tortoise habitat. Two of the fencing sites (Riley & Torino and Decatur & Thom) are in areas that have burrows and live tortoise within 1 mile. A site visit by a BLM wildlife biologist was conducted on September 17, 2010 for the aforementioned sites. It was found that there was trash scattered throughout these two sites, as well as a great deal of disturbance along the roadway. The Decatur & Thom site is also adjacent to the CTA. The other two sites have little tortoise sign in the area and are surrounded by development. All vehicles will remain within existing roadways and turnouts. Installation of the post and cable fence will take place within an existing disturbance.

Chapter 4. Environmental Effects:

Wildlife

Wildlife species in the general area include small mammals, rodents, birds and reptiles. These species may be found on the adjacent undisturbed lands and could wander into the proposed project area. The primary direct impacts of the proposed action on wildlife would be mortality resulting from construction activities. Wildlife species in the general area are common and widely distributed throughout the area and the loss of some individuals and/or their habitat would have a negligible impact on populations of the species throughout the region. As the goal for construction of the fence is to minimize further disturbance by vehicles parking in undisturbed areas, the project as a whole will be beneficial to all wildlife inhabiting the area.

BLM Sensitive Species

Western burrowing owl

Potential western burrowing owl habitat occurs adjacent to the project area. Direct loss of individuals is not anticipated as the proposed action will not create any new disturbance. Upon completion of the proposed action, habitat will be better protected from further disturbance.

Threatened, Endangered Species

The above proposed action has a no affect determination on the threatened desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*). This project will have no affect on any other federally listed species or designated critical habitat. As the goal for construction of the fence is to minimize further disturbance by vehicles parking in undisturbed areas, the project as a whole will be beneficial to adjacent tortoise habitat and any individuals in the area. No impacts to desert tortoises or their habitat are expected. Additionally, compliance with the special stipulations below will help to ensure that no affect to desert tortoises occurs. 1) A speed limit of 25 miles per hour shall be required for all vehicles travelling on the existing access roads. 2) Should a desert tortoise enter the area of activity, all activity shall cease until such time as the animal has left the area of its own accord. 3) Workers will be instructed to check underneath all vehicles and equipment before moving them as tortoises often take cover underneath parked vehicles during the active season.

Chapter 5. Tribes, Individuals, Organizations, or Agencies Consulted:

[Describe consultation efforts here.]

Table 5.1. List of Persons, Agencies and Organizations Consulted

Name	Purpose & Authorities for Consultation or Coordination	Findings & Conclusions
Lisa Harvey	ROW Administrator, NV Energy	No issues as long as fence near wall does not allow access for people to climb over wall
Cynthia Skromak	Senior ROW Agent, NV Energy	No issues as long as fence near wall does not allow access for people to climb over wall
John Runiks	Manager of Roadway Operations, City of North Las Vegas	No issues if access maintained
Rebecca Rury	Realty Specialist, City of Las Vegas Liason	No issues
Chris Streuber	Clark County Public Works	No issues if access maintained

Chapter 6. List of Preparers

[Enter the Preparers List here.]

Table 6.1. List of Preparers

Name	Title	Responsible for the Following Section(s) of this Document
Eric Delynko	Air Quality Technician (Contractor)	
Sedona Maniak	Desert Cleanup Coordinator (Contractor)	