

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Southern Nevada District Office  
Las Vegas, Nevada

July 2019

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# Las Vegas and Pahrump Field Offices

Updated Record of Decision for the Approved Las Vegas Resource Management Plan  
And Final Environmental Impact Statement

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**BLM/LV/LP-99/002+1610**

**Prepared by U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land  
Management, Las Vegas and Pahrump Field Offices (Southern  
Nevada District Office)**

Updated July 2019

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for the stewardship of our public lands. It is committed to manage, protect, and improve these lands in a manner to serve the needs of the American people for all times. Management is based upon the principles of multiple use and sustained yield of our nation's resources within a framework of environmental responsibility and scientific technology. These resources include recreation, rangelands, timber, minerals, watershed, fish and wilderness, air and scenic, scientific and cultural.

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Prepared by U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land  
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## **I. UPDATED RECORD OF DECISION**

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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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Full Phrase

ACEC	area of critical environmental concern
AML	appropriate management level
BLM	United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management
BOR	United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
EIS	environmental impact statement
FAA	Federal Aviation Authority
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976
GBNM	Gold Butte National Monument
LVFO	Las Vegas Field Office
MOU	memorandum of understanding
NHT	National Historic Trail
NPS	United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
OHV	off-highway vehicle
ORV	off-road vehicle
PL	Public Law
RMP	resource management plan
ROD	record of decision
ROW	right-of-way
SEZ	solar energy zone
SNPLMA	Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act
U.S.	United States
VRM	Visual Resource Management
WSA	Wilderness Study Area
WWEC	West-Wide Energy Corridors

## I. INTRODUCTION

The Las Vegas Resource Management Plan (RMP) provides a comprehensive framework for managing approximately 3,091,500 acres of public lands administered by the Las Vegas Field Office and Pahrump Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM; **Map I-1, Resource Management Planning Area**). The RMP replaced the Clark County Management Framework Plan (1984) and the Esmeralda-Southern Nye, Area B, Resource Management Plan (1986); pertinent decisions from those two documents were brought forward into the RMP. The 1998 Record of Decision (ROD) specified and established the Las Vegas RMP, following development of several alternatives and an environmental impact statement (EIS).

The BLM prepared this updated ROD to account for several land management changes since publication of the 1998 ROD for the Approved Las Vegas Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (1998 ROD).<sup>1</sup> The updated ROD contains management direction from several programmatic EISs produced by the BLM, which each amend the Las Vegas RMP. These amendments include:

- The BLM's 2005 Wind Energy Development Program and Associated Land Use Plan Amendments (Wind PEIS ROD)<sup>2</sup>
- The BLM's 2008 ROD and Resource Management Plan Amendments for Geothermal Leasing in the Western United States (Geothermal Leasing PEIS ROD)<sup>3</sup>
- The BLM's 2009 Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments/ROD for Designation of Energy Corridors on Bureau of Land Management-Administered Lands in the 11 Western States (WWEC PEIS ROD)<sup>4</sup>
- The BLM's 2012 Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments/ROD for Solar Energy Development in Six Southwestern States (Solar PEIS ROD)<sup>5</sup>

Updated management direction resulting from these amendments is outlined in **Appendix A**, Updated Final Las Vegas Resource Management Plan, under the relevant resource topics.

Additionally, several land management laws and other actions have been passed since publication of the 1998 ROD, which also amend the Las Vegas RMP. These are summarized in **Section 2**, Land Acts Amending the Las Vegas RMP, and **Section 3**, Other Actions Amending the Las Vegas RMP.

Where the above amendments rendered the maps in the 1998 ROD out of date, they were updated and included in **Appendix C**. Other maps and appendices referenced in the 1998 ROD

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<sup>1</sup> Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation. 1998. Record of Decision for the Approved Las Vegas Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement. Las Vegas Field Office, Las Vegas, Nevada.

<sup>2</sup> Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation. 2005. Implementation of a Wind Energy Development Program and Associated Land Use Plan Amendments. Bureau of Land Management, Washington, DC.

<sup>3</sup> Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation. 2008. Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan Amendments for Geothermal Leasing in the Western United States, BLM-WO-GI-09-003-1800. Bureau of Land Management, Washington, DC.

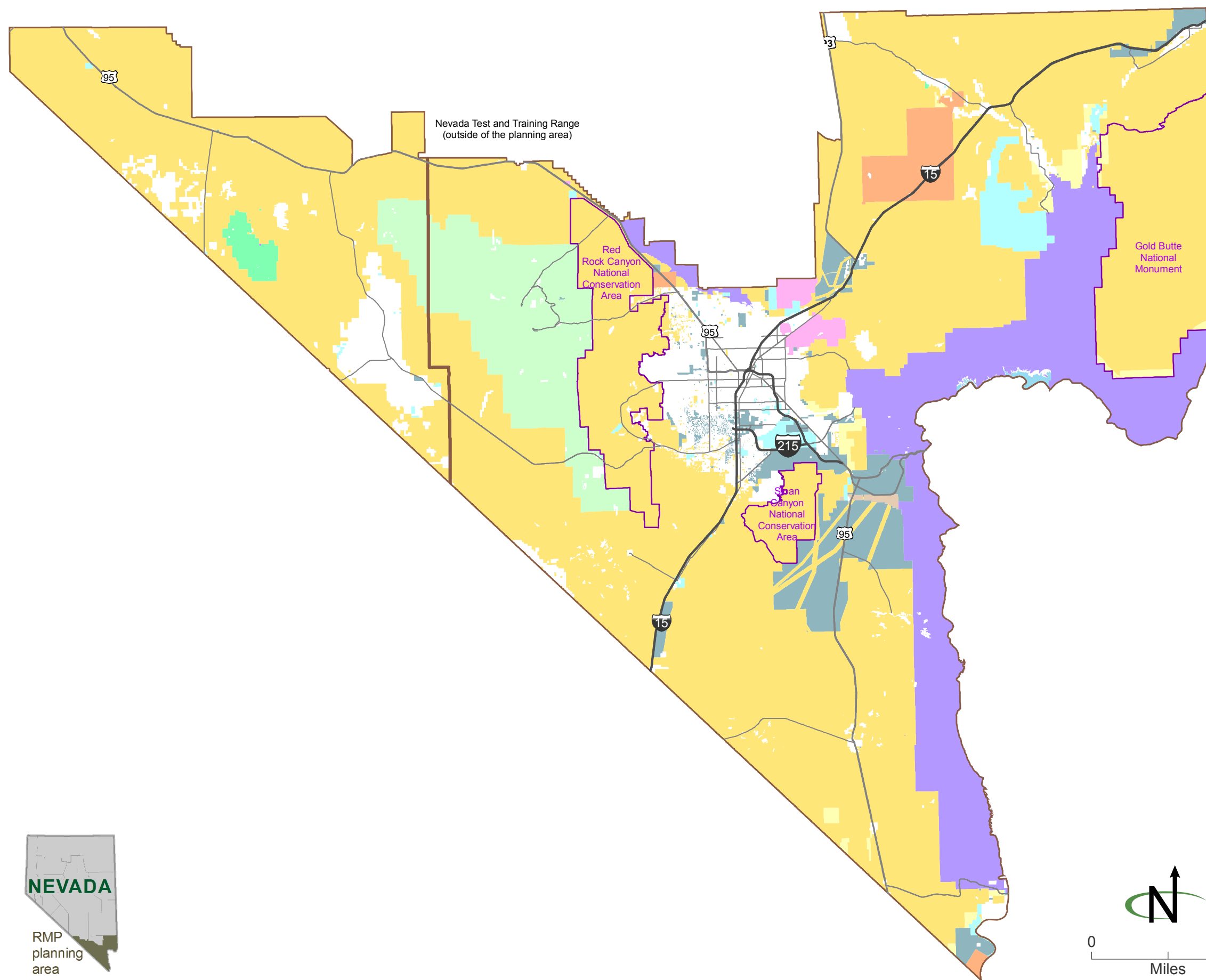
<sup>4</sup> Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation. 2009. Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments/Record of Decision for Designation of Energy Corridors on Bureau of Land Management-Administered Lands in the 11 Western States, BLM/WO-GI-09-005-1800. Bureau of Land Management, Washington, DC.

<sup>5</sup> Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation. 2012. Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments/Record of Decision for Solar Energy Development in Six Southwestern States. Bureau of Land Management, Washington, DC.

were not updated; please see the 1998 ROD and Approved Las Vegas RMP for these maps and appendices. Please refer to the 1998 ROD and Approved Las Vegas RMP for management direction that has not been updated as described above.

## **I.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING AREA**

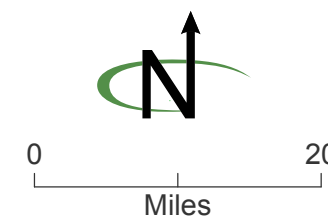
The planning area includes those lands in southern Nevada as identified on **Map I-1**. The **Southern Nevada** BLM District encompasses a total of approximately 3,091,500 acres of public lands in Clark County and a portion of southern Nye County. In addition, the BLM also manages approximately 1 million acres of split-estate lands in the planning area. The split-estate lands are of two types, one where the subsurface or mineral estate or a portion thereof is owned by the federal government and the surface is under private ownership, and another where the federal government owns the surface and the subsurface minerals or a portion thereof are in private ownership.



**Southern Nevada District  
Las Vegas Field Office  
Pahrump Field Office  
Updated Record of Decision**

**Resource Management Planning Area**

- Bureau of Land Management
- Forest Service
- National Park Service
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Department of Defense
- Department of Energy
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- Nevada State
- Local Government
- Private
- SNDO RMP Planning Area



Source: BLM GIS 2018  
Print date: July 25, 2019  
SNDO\_RMP\_ROD\_Intro.pdf  
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. The BLM's RMP considers decisions applied to BLM-administered land, the decision area.

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## **2. LAND ACTS AMENDING THE APPROVED LAS VEGAS RMP**

### **2.1 SOUTHERN NEVADA PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT ACT**

The Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) as amended, Public Law (PL) 105-263, became law in October 1998. It set the boundaries for the Las Vegas Valley disposal area, legislatively amending the RMP with the new boundaries. The revenue derived from land sales is split between the State of Nevada General Education Fund (5 percent), the Southern Nevada Water Authority (10 percent), and a special account available to the Secretary of the Interior for uses such as parks, trails, natural areas, capital improvements, conservation initiatives, environmentally sensitive land acquisitions, and multi-species habitat conservation plans.

### **2.2 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000**

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 (PL 106-65), was approved on October 5, 1999. This Act withdrew lands from the Pahrump Field Office, which comprise approximately 2,919,890 acres of land in Clark, Lincoln, and Nye Counties, Nevada, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Nevada Test and Training Range, Proposed Withdrawal Extension", dated April 22, 1999, and filed in accordance with section 3012. Under SEC. 3014 Management of Lands, "the Secretary of the Interior shall manage the lands withdrawn pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), other applicable law, and this subtitle." The Act also directed the BLM to create the Nevada Test and Training Range RMP for the withdrawn lands.

### **2.3 IVANPAH VALLEY AIRPORT PUBLIC LANDS TRANSFER ACT**

The Ivanpah Valley Airport Public Lands Transfer Act of 2000, PL 106-362, transferred lands from BLM administration to Clark County for the purpose of developing an airport facility and related infrastructure in the Ivanpah area adjacent to Interstate 15 and the California state line. The Federal Aviation Authority (FAA), in cooperation with the BLM as joint lead agencies, pursuant to the Ivanpah Valley Airport Public Lands Transfer Act of 2000, are in the process of preparing an EIS for the proposed 5,858-acre Ivanpah Valley Airport, just south of Jean, Nevada.

### **2.4 IVANPAH LAND CONVEYANCE**

BLM-administered lands in the Ivanpah Land Conveyance disposal area were transferred to Clark County. This is consistent with Section 3092(i) of PL 113-291, for the development of flood mitigation infrastructure for the proposed Ivanpah Valley Airport. Land conveyance is subject to valid existing rights and includes terms and conditions, as deemed necessary. The Ivanpah Land Conveyance disposal area is withdrawn from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws and operation under the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws. On conveyance, the mineral estate was reserved, except for purposes related to flood mitigation, including removal from aggregate floods and construction and operation of the airport. The mineral estate may be conveyed only once the FAA has approved the airport layout plan.

### **2.5 CLARK COUNTY CONSERVATION OF PUBLIC LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES ACT**

The Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002, PL 1074-282, designated Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area (removing it from the RMP decision area), designated several wilderness areas within the Las Vegas Field Office, and amended SNPLMA to expand the disposal boundary area to address the continuing growth in the Las

Vegas region. The Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002 also includes a section that established a land transfer for an overlay district (approximately 17,000 acres) associated with the Ivanpah Valley Airport.

**2.6 LINCOLN COUNTY CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT ACT**

The Lincoln County Conservation and Development Act of 2004, PL 108-424, changed the location of a utility corridor that was noted in the 1998 RMP.

**2.7 THREE KIDS MINE REMEDIATION AND RECLAMATION ACT**

Three Kids Mine Remediation and Reclamation Act, PL 113-135, enacted on July 25, 2014, provided for the conveyance of federal lands for the environmental remediation and reclamation of the Three Kids Mine Project.

**2.8 CARL LEVIN AND HOWARD P. “BUCK” MCKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015, PUBLIC LAW 113-291 (AS AMENDED)**

The Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act of 2015 transferred 22,650 acres to the National Park Service (NPS) to establish the Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument, which terminated the Upper Las Vegas Wash Conservation Transfer Area. The act also expanded the Red Rock National Conservation Area by 1,530 acres. It conveyed 960 acres at Nellis Dunes to Clark County to create the Clark County Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Recreation Park. In addition, the act:

- Conveyed 660 acres to Las Vegas and 645 acres to North Las Vegas to establish job creation zones
- Set aside 2,085 acres for use by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; 40 acres for the College of Southern Nevada; and 285 acres for Great Basin College
- Expanded Nellis Air Force Base

Pursuant to Section 3092(a)(4) of PL 113-291, Congress established the Renewable Energy Transmission Corridor. This 400-foot-wide right-of-way (ROW) energy corridor is for the construction and maintenance of high-voltage transmission facilities and is partially withdrawn from entry under the public land laws; location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and operation under the mineral leasing, geothermal leasing, and mineral materials laws. Use of this corridor would be compatible with the intent of Congress and would not negatively affect existing and future uses of the corridor. The ROW would expire on December 9, 2029, if construction of the high-voltage transmission facilities has not begun by that date, unless it is in the public interest to continue it.

Pursuant to Section 3092(a)(5) of PL 113-291, Congress established the Water Conveyance Facilities Corridor. This 100-foot-wide ROW is for the construction, maintenance, repair, and replacement of a buried water conveyance pipeline and associated facilities within the Water Conveyance Facilities Corridor and the Renewable Energy Transmission Corridor.

**2.9 ADDITIONAL LAND ACTS AMENDING THE 1998 LAS VEGAS RMP**

- 2008 Consent Decree and Settlement Agreement (Civil Action No. 2:08–cv–01024). BLM-administered lands within the Sunrise Landfill disposal area are to be transferred to Clark County consistent with the 2008 Consent Decree and Settlement Agreement, the



Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), and federal regulation and policy.

- PL 96-491. The BLM manages the congressionally mandated Moapa Corridor consistent with PL 96-491 (December 2, 1980), ROW regulation and policy, and the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the BLM and the Office of Special Trustee for American Indians. This corridor is legislatively restricted to a width of 3,000 feet. This corridor starts at the most northeastern part of the Moapa River Indian Reservation, in Mount Diablo meridian, T. 15 S., R. 65 E., secs. 12 and 13, running southwest through the reservation, terminating just north of the Crystal substation in T. 16 S., R. 64 E., secs. 32, 33, and 34. Pursuant to PL 96-491, the Secretary of the Interior has the authority through the FLPMA to grant and administer ROWs through this congressionally designated corridor.
- PL 101-67. The BLM manages the legislative Apex corridor consistent with PL 101-67. The Apex corridor starts in Mount Diablo meridian, T. 17 S., R. 63 E., sec. 32. It continues south along the western boundary and extends south next to the east boundary from MDM, T. 18 S., R. 63 E., secs. 13 and 14 through the Apex site. There are multiple Apex corridors that extend through the Apex site, with widths that vary up to 3,500 feet.
- Eldorado Valley Transfer Act (PL 85-339, as amended). The BLM manages federally excepted and reserved transportation and utility corridors in those lands patented in accordance with the Eldorado Valley Transfer Act and ROW regulation and policy. The Eldorado Valley corridors are southeast of Las Vegas, south of Henderson and Boulder City, and east of the McCullough Mountains in Clark County. The Eldorado Valley corridors range in width from 2,000 to 3,000 feet.
- On December 19, 2014, bill H.R. 3979 was enacted as PL 113-291. Section 3092(e) of PL 113-291 conveys a parcel of public land to the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department for use as a shooting range. The public law is an expansion of conveyance to the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. The public law reads: "Section 703 of the Clark County Conservation of Public Land and natural Resources Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-282); 116 Stat. 2013 is amended by inserting before the period at the end of the following: and, subject to valid existing rights, the parcel of land identified as 'Las Vegas Police Shooting Range' on the map entitled 'North Las Vegas Valley Overview' and dated November 5, 2013."
- Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006, PL109-432, December 20, 2006. The White Pine County Amendment enacts the Spring Mountains Multi-Jurisdictional Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention 10-Year Strategy. This strategy is to comply with the White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act.
- PL 109-115. Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, The Judiciary, The District of Columbia and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006. This act identified BLM-administered lands for disposal, for the specific purpose of a heliport. The land is located adjacent to Interstate 15 at the Southern end of the Las Vegas Valley Disposal Area.

- Public Land Order No. 7637; Withdrawal of Public Land for the Logandale Wildland Fire Station, NV, 2005. This order withdraws 10 acres of BLM-administered land from surface entry and mining for a period of 20 years, to protect the BLM's Logandale Wildland Fire Station<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup> Note: the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act of 2015 violates this Public Land Order, because lands conveyed to Great Basin College overlap the Pahrump Fire Station land withdrawal.

### **3. OTHER ACTIONS AMENDING THE APPROVED LAS VEGAS RMP**

#### **3.1 GOLD BUTTE NATIONAL MONUMENT**

On December 28, 2016, the White House issued a proclamation by the president of the United States establishing the Gold Butte National Monument (GBNM). The proclamation was made under the authority of Section 320301 of title 54, United States Code (known as the "Antiquities Act"). As stated in the proclamation, "The protection of the Gold Butte area will preserve its cultural, prehistoric, and historic legacy and maintain its diverse array of natural and scientific resources, ensuring that the historic and scientific values of this area, and its many objects of historic and of scientific interest, remain for the benefit of all Americans." The boundary of the GBNM is depicted on **Map I-1**. The allocations outlined in the proclamation would apply to lands within the boundary until such time as a management plan and record of decision are prepared for the GBNM.

#### **3.2 OLD SPANISH NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL**

On August 1, 2002, Congress passed the Old Spanish Trail Recognition Act of 2002. The act amends the National Trails System Act to designate the Old Spanish National Historic Trail, extending from Santa Fe, New Mexico, to Los Angeles, California, as a National Historic Trail to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior.

#### **3.3 MODIFIED COMPETITIVE LAND SALE PROPOSED RMP AMENDMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

On November 2, 2018, the Finding of No Significant Impact was signed for a proposed RMP amendment and environmental assessment (DOI-BLM-NV-S030-2018-0004-EA<sup>7</sup>) that analyzed modifying the BLM-administered land disposal boundary in Pahrump Valley by increasing the disposal area by approximately 620 acres. The newly designated disposal land would be offered for sale in two modified competitive sales.

#### **3.4 SILVER STATE SOLAR SOUTH PROJECT AND LAS VEGAS FIELD OFFICE RMP AMENDMENT**

In February 2014, the Record of Decision was signed for the proposed Silver State Solar South Project and Las Vegas Field Office RMP Amendment<sup>8</sup>. The Project involves a 250-MW<sub>AC</sub> solar photovoltaic facility and associated infrastructure necessary to interconnect the power generated from the solar facility to the electrical grid system, including:

- ROW grants for the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of the solar facility and associated infrastructure proposed by Silver State Solar Power South, LLC; and
- Amendments to the 1998 LVFO RMP to: (i) remove the SRMA designation within the ROW grant area; (ii) change the VRM classification from Class III to Class IV within the ROW grant area; (iii) designate a 31,859-acre ACEC adjacent to the ROW grant area.

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<sup>7</sup> Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation. 2018. Finding of No Significant Impact for the Modified Competitive Land Sale Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-NV-S030-2018-0004-EA). Pahrump Field Office, Las Vegas, Nevada.

<sup>8</sup> Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation. 2014. Record of Decision for the Silver State Solar South Project and Las Vegas Field Office Resource Management Plan Amendment. Las Vegas Field Office, Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## APPENDIX A. UPDATED APPROVED LAS VEGAS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

A code with 2 to 3 capital letters is used to designate each resource program (see list below). Objectives are designated by sequential numbers following the program code, such as AR-I. Management directions are identified by the objective designation followed by a lower case letter, such as AR-I-a. The AR-I-a management direction is linked directly to, and listed below, the AR-I objective.

Objectives and management direction for the air, soil, water, and riparian resources that are impacted by other resource programs are included in those program sections. To avoid redundancy, these objectives and management direction are not repeated within the air, soil, water, and riparian sections.

### Codes for Each Resource

Air Resource	AR
Soil Resource	SL
Water Resource	WT
Riparian	RP
Vegetation	VG
Visual Resource	VS
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	AC
Fish and Wildlife Habitat	FW
Special Status Species	SS
Forestry	FR
Livestock Grazing	LG
Wild Horse and Burro	WHB
Cultural Resource	CR
Lands	LD
Rights-of-Way	RW
Acquisitions	AQ
Recreation	RC
Wild and Scenic Rivers	SR
Wilderness	WS
Minerals	MN
Hazardous Materials	HZ
Fire	FE
National Historic Trails	NHT

### AIR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

#### Objective

**AR-I.** Ensure that actions occurring on BLM-administered lands do not violate local, state, tribal and federal air quality laws, regulations, and standards.

#### Management Direction

**AR-I-a.** Ensure that the planning process addresses air quality considerations by incorporating objectives and actions into resource activity plans, such as Allotment Management Plans, Habitat Management Plans, and Watershed Management Plans. Where applicable, include "conformity"

demonstration in site-specific activity plans and/or National Environmental Policy Act documentation.

**AR-I-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 (Conformity; per 40 CFR 93.100 et seq).

**SOIL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

*Objective*

**SL-I.** Reduce erosion and sedimentation while maintaining or where possible enhancing soil productivity through the maintenance and improvement of watershed conditions.

*Management Direction*

**SL-I-a.** On watersheds that exhibit good potential for recovery, implement protective measures, including but not limited to fencing and removal of tamarisk.

**SL-I-b.** Improve watersheds that have a critical erosion condition and a moderate erosion condition to have a high erosion susceptibility (See **Table A-1**). Give priority to those watersheds within the Colorado River drainage system.

**SL-I-c.** Maintain watersheds that have a stable and slight erosion condition with a low moderate or high susceptibility; and maintain watersheds that have a moderate erosion condition with a low or moderate erosion susceptibility (See **Table A-1**).

**Table A-1. Erosion Condition and Susceptibility Management Objectives**

Condition Class	Susceptibility Class	Action: Maintain	Action: Improve
Critical	High	—	X
Critical	Moderate	—	X
Critical	Low	—	X
Moderate	High	—	X
Moderate	Moderate	X	—
Moderate	Low	X	—
Slight	High	X	—
Slight	Moderate	X	—
Slight	Low	X	—
Stable	High	X	—
Stable	Moderate	X	—
Stable	Low	X	—

Source: BLM, Las Vegas District Office files 1991

**WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

*Objectives*

**WT-1.** Maintain the quality of waters presently in compliance with state and/or federal water quality standards. Improve the quality of waters found to be in noncompliance.

**WT-2.** Maintain or reduce salt yields originating from public lands to meet state-adopted and Environmental Protection Agency approved water quality standards for the Colorado River.

*Management Direction*

**WT-1a, 2a.** Using Best Management Practices as identified by the State of Nevada, minimize contributions from both point and non-point sources of pollution (including salts) resulting from public land management actions.

*Objective*

**WT-3.** Ensure availability of adequate water to meet management objectives including the recovery and/or re-establishment of Special Status Species.

*Management Direction*

**WT-3-a.** Determine water needs to meet management objectives. File for appropriate water rights on public and acquired lands in accordance with the State of Nevada water laws for water sources that are not federally reserved.

**WT-3-b.** Determine instream flow requirements and apply for necessary water rights on the Virgin River and Meadow Valley Wash.

**RIPARIAN MANAGEMENT**

*Objective*

**RP-I.** Provide widest variety of vegetation and habitat for wildlife, fish, and watershed protection; ensure that all riparian areas are in proper functioning condition by achieving an advanced ecological status, except where resource management objectives require an earlier successional stage. Manage vegetation consistent with VG-I.

*Management Direction*

**RP-I-a.** Complete assessments on all riparian areas, including development of actions necessary to achieve Proper Functioning Condition on all areas that are functioning at risk.

**RP-I-b.** Improve riparian areas, giving priority to areas Functioning at Risk with a downward trend. Implement measures to protect riparian areas, such as fencing and/or alternate water sources away from the riparian area.

**RP-I-c.** Ensure that the minimum requirement of Proper Functioning Condition on all riparian areas is maintained or achieved.

**RP-I-d.** Do not allow competitive off-road vehicle (ORV) events within 0.25 miles of natural water sources and associated riparian areas.

**RP-I-e.** Retain riparian and mesquite woodlands in federal ownership, unless their disposal is in the public interest.

**RP-I-f.** Use integrated weed management techniques to control and eradicate tamarisk, such as burning, chemical, biological or mechanical treatments, where potential for treatment is good. Rehabilitate the area with native species to help reduce the potential for tamarisk re-establishment and improve ecosystem health.

**VEGETATION MANAGEMENT**

*Objective*

**VG-I.** Maintain or improve the condition of vegetation on public lands to a Desired Plant Community or to a Potential Natural Community (see Appendix N of the 1998 Proposed RMP/Final EIS for desert tortoise habitat guidelines for desired plant community).

Management Direction

**VG-1-a.** Manage to achieve a Desired Plant Community or a Potential Natural Community.

Objective

**VG-2.** Restore plant productivity on disturbed areas of the public lands.

Management Direction

**VG-2-a.** Rehabilitate, reclaim, or revegetate areas subjected to surface-disturbing activities, where feasible. When rehabilitating disturbed areas, manage for optimum species diversity by seeding native species, except where non-native species are appropriate.

**VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (VRM)**

Objective

**VS-1.** Limit future impacts on the visual and aesthetic character of the public lands (see **Map C-1**).

Management Direction

**VS-1-a.** Designate **733,100** acres of public lands as VRM Class II and manage to retain the landscape's existing character. In these areas, authorized actions may not modify existing landscapes or attract the attention of casual viewers (**Map C-1**).

**VS-1-b.** Designate **1,579,800** acres of public lands as VRM Class III for partial retention of the existing character of the landscape. In these areas, authorized actions may alter the existing landscape, but not to the extent that they attract or focus attention of the casual viewer (**Map C-1**).

**VS-1-c.** Designate **559,300** acres of public lands as VRM Class IV, which allows activities involving major modification of the landscape's existing character. Authorized actions may create significant landscape alterations and would be obvious to casual viewers (**Map C-1**).

**VS-1-d.** Continue to refine the VRM inventory to refine the database, viewsheds, and scenic ratings.

**AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACECs)**

Objectives

**AC-1.** Establish ACECs specifically for management of desert tortoise within the Northeastern Mojave and Eastern Mojave recovery units identified in the *Tortoise Recovery Plan* (SS-31a) (see **Table A-2**). Manage a sufficient quality and quantity of desert tortoise habitat, which in combination with tortoise habitat on other federal, state, and private land, will meet recovery plan criteria. Maintain functional corridors of habitat between ACECs to increase the chance of long-term persistence of desert tortoise populations within the recovery unit.

**AC-2.** Protect areas with significant cultural, natural, or geological values by establishing ACECs shown in **Table A-2** through **Table A-6**.

Management Direction

**AC-1a/2a.** Designate areas shown in **Table A-2** through **Table A-6** and on **Map C-2** as ACECs for a total of approximately **988,103** acres. Manage each area based on the specific resource constraints identified in **Table A-2** through **Table A-6**.



Table A-2. Desert Tortoise ACECs

ACEC Name	Acreage <sup>1</sup>	Values	Resource Constraints					OHV/ORV Designations, Recreation
			Lands	Minerals	Range	Roads	Wildlife	
Paiute/ Eldorado	329,440	Critical tortoise habitat	Retain in federal ownership. Designate as ROW avoidance except within corridors.	Close to locatable minerals and solid leasables. Open to fluid mineral leasing subject to no surface occupancy stipulations. Allow material site ROW only within 1/2 mile of the centerline of Federal Aid Highways. Designate as a site type ROW exclusion area except within 1/2 mile of either side of Federal Aid Highways. Allow FUP only within 1/2 mile of the centerline of federal and state highways and specified county roads. Issue FUP to governmental entities only.	Close to livestock grazing. Manage for zero wild horses and burros.	Require reclamation of temporary roads. Authorize new roads in response to specific proposed actions where no feasible alternative exists. Ensure access to private property.	Do not allow commercial collection of flora. Only allow commercial collection of fauna upon completion of a scientifically credible study that demonstrates commercial collection does not adversely impact affected species or their habitat. This action will not affect hunting, trapping or casual collection as permitted by the State.	See note 2 below
Coyote Springs	75,500	Critical tortoise habitat	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above
Mormon Mesa	151,360	Critical tortoise habitat	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above
Gold Butte, Part A	186,909	Critical tortoise habitat	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above

## Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Reported acres are based on current management; they may not reflect specific allocations from the Gold Butte National Monument Proclamation.

<sup>2</sup> Designate as "Limited to designated roads and trails" for all motorized and mechanized vehicles. Prohibit ORV speed events, mountain bike races, horse endurance rides, four-

wheel drive hill climbs, mini events, publicity rides, high-speed testing, and similar speed-based events. Commercial activities may be permitted on a case-by-case basis if consistent with the recovery of the desert tortoise.

Allow non-speed events subject to: 1) Recreation Use Permits shall be required for events with more than 25 vehicles; 2) Events with more than 100 vehicles must be held during the tortoise inactive season (11/1 to 2/28[29]). There will be a cap of no more than 300 motorcycles or 300 four-wheeled vehicles on any event with the exception that if an alternative route is not found for the Barstow to Las Vegas event, the number of entrants permitted in Nevada will be consistent with that permitted by California; 3) No OHV events will be permitted from 4/1 to 6/1 and from 8/15 to 10/15 (dates will vary slightly annually to provide a full weekend if 4/1 falls during the weekend and to provide three full weekends prior to [or including] 11/1); 4) A maximum of 10 permitted non-speed events will be allowed annually during the tortoise active season (3/1 to 10/31) with no more than 3 events per ACEC, with the exception that an event based on historic use patterns will be allowed from Mesquite through the Mormon Mesa ACEC. This event may have 200 entrants, will count as 2 of the 3 events held annually, and is limited to a one-way route (north-south or south-north); 5) A maximum of 12 permitted non-speed events will be allowed annually during the tortoise inactive season with no more than 4 events per ACEC; 6) Vehicles shall not exceed the legal speed limit (posted or unposted) of the road(s) used during the event. Clark County speed limit for unposted roads is 25 MPH.

**Table A-3. Archaeological and Cultural Resources ACECs (Not shared with other ACECs)**

ACEC Name	Acreage <sup>1</sup>	Values	Resource Constraints				
			Lands	Minerals	Range	Roads	OHV/ORV Designations, Recreation
Stump Spring	641	Prehistoric camp and historic trail/camp	Retain in federal ownership. ROW avoidance. Close to mineral material ROWs	Close to locatable minerals, salables and solid leasables. Open to fluid minerals subject to NSO stipulations.	Manage consistent with the surrounding allotment and herd management area, if applicable.	Require reclamation of temporary roads. Authorize new roads in response to specific authorized actions only, ensure access to private property.	Limited designation, consistent with OHV designations of surrounding areas, except for Hidden Valley which is closed to OHV.
Hidden Valley	3,360	Prehistoric habitation and rock art	Retain in federal ownership. ROW Exclusion. Close to mineral material ROWs	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above
Keyhole Canyon	361	Prehistoric habitation and rock art	Same as Stump Spring	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above
Bird Spring <sup>2</sup>	161	Prehistoric habitation and rock art	Same as Stump Spring	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above
Arden Historic Sites	1,480	Historic railroad construction and mining	Same as Stump Spring	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above
Crescent Townsite	437	Historic railroad construction and mining	Same as Stump Spring	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above

**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> Reported acres are based on current management; they may not reflect specific allocations from the Gold Butte National Monument Proclamation.

<sup>2</sup> Within Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area expansion; acreage not included in total ACEC calculations in plan. Already withdrawn from mineral entry under the Red Rock legislation.

**Table A-4. Archaeological and Cultural Resources ACECs and a Natural ACEC (Shared with Gold Butte ACEC)**

ACEC Name	Shared with	Acreage <sup>1</sup>	Values	Resource Constraints				
				Lands	Minerals	Range	Roads	OHV/ORV Designations, Recreation
Gold Butte ACEC, Part B	Gold Butte ACEC, Part B	119,097 <sup>2</sup>	Cultural resources, scenic, wildlife habitat, sensitive species.	Retain in federal ownership. Designate as ROW avoidance area.	Close to locatable minerals, salables and solid leasables. Open to fluid minerals subject to timing and special use constraints.	Close to grazing. Manage wild burros at appropriate management level (AML)=98.	Require reclamation of temporary roads. Authorize new roads in response to specific authorized actions only, ensure access to private property.	Limited to existing roads and trails. Do not allow speed ORV events. Other events allowed on case-by-case basis.
Gold Butte Townsites	Gold Butte ACEC, Part B	160 <sup>4</sup>	Historic mining	Same as above	Close to locatable minerals, salables and solid leasables. Open to fluid minerals subject to no surface occupancy stipulations. Close to mineral material ROWs.	Manage consistent with the surrounding allotment and herd management area, if applicable.	Same as above	Same as above
Red Rock Spring	Gold Butte ACEC, Part A	640 <sup>3</sup>	Prehistoric habitation and rock art	Same as above	Same as Gold Butte Townsites	Same as Gold Butte Townsites	Same as above	Limited designation; consistent with OHV designations of surrounding areas.
Whitney Pocket	Gold Butte ACEC, Part A	160 <sup>3</sup>	Prehistoric habitation and rock art	Same as above	Same as Gold Butte Townsites	Same as Gold Butte Townsites	Same as above	Same as above
Devil's Throat	Gold Butte ACEC, Part A	640 <sup>3</sup>	Natural hazard area	Same as above	Same as Gold Butte Townsites	Same as Gold Butte Townsites	Same as above	Same as above

**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> Reported acres are based on current management; they may not reflect specific allocations from the Gold Butte National Monument Proclamation.

<sup>2</sup> Includes 160 acres of Gold Butte Townsite; excludes Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) withdrawn land

<sup>3</sup> Within Gold Butte ACEC Part A; acreage not included in totals calculations in plan.

<sup>4</sup> Within Gold Butte ACEC Part B; acreage not included in totals calculations in plan.

Table A-5. Special Wildlife and Riparian ACECs

ACEC Name	Acreage <sup>1</sup>	Values	Resource Constraints					OHV/ORV Designations, Recreation
			Lands	Minerals	Fluid Minerals	Range	Roads	
Amargosa Mesquite	6,891	Neotropical bird habitat	Retain in federal ownership. Designate as an ROW avoidance area except within corridors. Close to mineral material ROWs.	Close to locatable minerals, salables and solid leasables.	Allow fluid mineral leasing, subject to Timing and Surface Use Constraint special stipulations	Open to livestock grazing. AML for wild horses and burros = zero.	Require reclamation of temporary roads. Authorize new roads in response to specific authorized actions only, ensure access to private property.	Designate as limited to existing roads and trails. No competitive ORV events.
Gold Butte ACEC Part C <sup>2</sup> (Virgin Mountains)	38,431	Wildlife habitat; scenic; botanical	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above	Close to livestock grazing. N/A for wild horses and burros.	Same as above	Same as above
Big Dune	1,920	Special status species habitat	Same as above, and, designate as ROW exclusion area.	Same as above	Allow fluid mineral leasing subject to no surface occupancy stipulations.	N/A	Same as above	Designate the <b>approximately 200-acre beetle habitat</b> as closed to OHV; designate <b>remaining areas</b> as open to OHV; no competitive ORV events.
Ash Meadows	27,554	Special status species habitat	Same as above	Same as above	Close to geothermal prospecting and leasing, including BLM lands inside the Ash Meadows NWR	Close to livestock grazing. AML for wild horses = zero.	Same as above	Outside the Refuge boundary - Limit to existing roads and trails; within the Refuge boundary -limited, designated roads and trails. No competitive OHV events.

Key:

<sup>1</sup> Reported acres are based on current management; they may not reflect specific allocations from the Gold Butte National Monument Proclamation.<sup>2</sup> Originally called Virgin Mountain ACEC, it was combined with the Gold Butte ACEC to form one contiguous ACEC.

**Table A-6. Combination Values ACECs**

ACEC Name	Acreage <sup>1</sup>	Values	Resource Constraints				OHV/ORV Designations, Recreation
			Lands	Minerals	Range	Roads	
Arrow Canyon	2,084	Paleontological (Miocene bird tracks); Geological (candidate for the midcarboniferous boundary stratotype section); cultural (prehistoric rock art).	Retain in federal ownership. Designate as ROW avoidance area except within corridors. Close to mineral material ROWs.	Close to locatable minerals, salables and solid leasables. Open to fluid minerals subject to no surface occupancy stipulations.	Manage consistent with the surrounding allotment and herd management area, if applicable.	Require reclamation of temporary roads. Authorize new roads in response to specific authorized actions only. ensure access to private property.	Limited designation consistent with OHV designations of surrounding areas.
Rainbow Gardens	37,620	Geological; scientific; scenic; cultural (320 acres); sensitive plants.	Same as above	Same as above	Close to livestock grazing. N/A for wild horses and burros.	Same as above	Designate as limited to designated roads and trails. No speed based vehicle events.
River Mountains	5,617	Bighorn sheep habitat; scenic viewshed for Henderson and Boulder City.	Same as above	Same as above	N/A	Same as above	Same as above
Virgin River	6,411	T&E; riparian habitat; cultural resources (5,000 acres only).	Same as above, and, acquire private land w/riparian or aquatic habitat on a willing seller basis.	Same as above	Close to livestock grazing. N/A for wild horses and burros.	Same as above	Same as above

**Key:**

<sup>1</sup> Reported acres are based on current management; they may not reflect specific allocations from the Gold Butte National Monument Proclamation.

**AC-1b/2b.** Incorporate ACECs on lands relinquished from withdrawal to other federal agencies into the ACEC. Also apply the management guidance, restrictions, and directions appropriate to areas of Critical Environmental Concern to the relinquished lands.

**AC-1c/2c.** Manage those portions of an ACEC within a Wilderness Study Area (WSA) under the Interim Management Policy until such time Congress makes further determination on their status. For those areas released from wilderness consideration by Congress, manage under the appropriate ACEC guidance, restrictions, and directions.

**AC-1d/2d.** Manage the Ivanpah Valley ACEC (Las Vegas Field Office; **Map C-2**) as an 31,857-acre ACEC to protect desert tortoise. In addition to the management prescriptions listed above for all ACECs, the following prescriptions would apply:

### **Lands and Realty**

- Linear ROWs: Avoid except in designated corridors.
- Site-type land-use authorizations: Land-use authorizations and small site-type ROWs (5 acres or less) would be considered on a case-by-case basis. Exclude large site-type ROWs (greater than 5 acres).
- ROWs for construction and operation of the Ivanpah Valley Airport and associated facilities are allowed in the ACEC subject to an approved Airport Final EIS and ROD and subject to compliance with the Endangered Species Act.
- No military maneuvers authorized.

### **Minerals**

- Fluid leasable: Apply controlled surface use such that the BLM may require that a proposed facility or activity be relocated by more than 656 feet (200 meters) from a proposed location if necessary to achieve the desired level of resource protection.
- Solid leasable: Closed
- Locatable: Open
- Saleable: Saleable mineral disposals that provide resource protection, enhancement of the relevance and importance values and/or address human health and safety would be allowed.

### **Livestock Grazing**

- Closed

### **Recreation**

- Camping: Allowed
- Speed events: Allowed
- Non-speed events: Allowed. Activities will require a desert tortoise spotter during the tortoise active season. The BLM will monitor activities to ensure there are no adverse impacts on tortoise.
- Commercial activities: Allowed

**Travel Management**

- Limited

**Vegetation**

- Activities that result in loss or degradation of tortoise habitat will require reclamation to pre-disturbance condition within a reasonable time frame. Reclamation may include, but is not limited to, salvage and transplant of cactus and yucca, recontouring the area, scarification of compacted soil, soil amendments, seeding, and transplant of seedling shrubs. Subsequent seeding or transplanting efforts may be required if monitoring indicates that the original effort was not successful.

**FISH, WILDLIFE AND SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES MANAGEMENT**

**Fish and Wildlife**

Objective

**FW-I.** Maintain or improve approximately 869,800 acres of current and potential bighorn sheep habitat toward full ecological potential. Through management and habitat enhancement projects, allow desert bighorn sheep populations to reach levels consistent with the carrying capacity of their habitat, and consistent with other BLM policy. **Table A-7** shows the potential population estimates of bighorn sheep. Make adjustments to the population estimates as needed, based on the results of monitoring.

**Table A-7. Bighorn Sheep Habitat Management Areas**

Habitat Management Area	Potential Population	Source of Potential Population
Arrow Canyon Range	391-431	MAD HMP
South Spring/Bird Spring Range	150-200	Draft S. Spring HMP
McCullough Mountains	734	Rangewide Plan
Highland Range	70-105	Highland RMP
Eldorado Mountains	400-450	census data
Muddy Mountains	500-550	census data
Newberry Mountains	169	Rangewide Plan
River Mountains	230-260	census data
Virgin Mountains	127-145	Draft Virgin/Gold Butte HMP
New York/Castle Peak	140	Rangewide Plan
Gold Buttes	228-252	Draft Virgin/Gold Butte HMP
Last Chance Range	129-157	Southern Nye HMP
Specter Range	116-142	Southern Nye HMP
Bare Mountains	86-105	Southern Nye HMP
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,470-3,840</b>	<b>N/A</b>

Source: *Rangewide Plan for Managing Bighorn Sheep on Public Lands* USDI, BLM 1988, habitat management plans and current population levels. Numbers were not provided by NDOW.

Management Direction

**FW-I-a.** Maintain and improve bighorn sheep habitat by maintaining existing water developments, constructing additional water developments, and protecting/improving springs, seeps and riparian habitat, consistent with BLM policy for management of VSAs, in the following areas:



- Arrow Canyon/Elbow Range
- South Spring/Bird Spring Range
- Gold Butte/Virgin Mountains
- Muddy Mountains
- Spring Range
- Eldorado/Newberry Range
- Specter Range/Last Chance Range/Bare Mountains McCullough Range/Highland Range/Crescent Peak.

Limit competition between bighorn, livestock, and wild horses and burros around spring sources by providing separate water sources for each type of user. When possible, provide water at the source for wildlife. If new data indicate that improvements are needed in other areas, do not limit activities to the areas listed above.

**FW-1-b.** Evaluate discretionary activities proposed in bighorn sheep habitat and on a case-by-case basis. Grant authorization if the proposed actions are consistent with goals and objectives of the *Rangewide Plan for Managing Desert Bighorn Sheep Habitat on Public Lands* (U.S. Dept. of Interior, BLM 1988) and other applicable policies.

Objective

**FW-2.** Re-establish native fauna (including naturalized species) to historic habitat and improve population numbers in current use areas.

Management Direction

**FW-2-a.** Cooperate with state and federal wildlife agencies in implementing introductions, reintroduction, and augmentation releases of native and/or naturalized species (such as desert bighorn sheep, and chukar).

**FW-2-b.** Design new waters for livestock and wild horses and burros to reduce potential conflicts with bighorn sheep and other wildlife, consistent with BLM policy for management of WSAs.

**FW-2-c.** Animal damage control activities may be allowed on a temporary basis if necessary for successful re-establishment of native species or to allow for recovery of decimated populations.

Objective

**FW-3.** Support viable and diverse native wildlife populations by providing and maintaining sufficient quality and quantity of food, water, cover, and space to satisfy needs of wildlife species using habitats on public land.

Management Direction

**FW-3-a.** Manage mesquite and acacia woodlands for their value as wildlife habitat in the following areas: Amargosa Valley, Meadow Valley Wash, Moapa Valley, Pahrump Valley, Stewart Valley, Hiko Wash, Piute Wash, Crystal and Stump Springs, or any other areas identified as being of significant wildlife value.

**FW-3-b.** Allow harvesting of green or dead and down Mesquite by permit only and in those areas identified in FW-3-a, where consistent with sustaining plant communities in a healthy and vigorous state and also consistent with sustaining viable wildlife populations.

**FW-3-c.** Manage habitat to support elk that move onto BLM-managed lands from U.S. Forest Service lands in the Spring Mountains. Determine needed adjustments to population levels through monitoring in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and Nevada Division of Wildlife.

**FW-3-d.** Allow construction and maintenance of additional upland game guzzlers, as needed, consistent with BLM policy, including placement in WSAs.

**FW-3-e.** Protect artificial and natural waters that provide benefit to wildlife by providing a minimum buffer of 0.25 miles for permitted activities (such as for ORV events).

**FW-3-f.** Protect key nesting areas, migration routes, important prey base areas, and concentration areas for birds of prey on public lands by mitigating activities during National Environmental Policy Act compliance.

**FW-3-g.** Protect important resting/nesting habitat, such as riparian areas and mesquite/acacia woodlands. Do not allow projects that may adversely impact the water table supporting these plant communities.

**FW-3-h.** Improve disturbed non-game bird habitat, including the water table supporting these habitats, by emphasizing maintenance and enhancement of natural biodiversity.

### **Special Status Species**

Special Status Species include all plant and animal species that are federally listed as "threatened or endangered" under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, Candidate species under the Endangered Species Act, State listed species, or species otherwise identified by the BLM State Director.

#### Objective

**SS-1.** Manage special status species habitat at the potential natural community or desired plant community, according to the need of the species.

#### Management Direction

**SS-1-a.** Improve approximately 400 acres of aquatic and riparian habitat on the Virgin River, Muddy River, and Meadow Valley Wash from its existing poor-to-fair condition to good-or-better condition by replacing *Tamarix* with native species.

**SS-1-b.** Maintain or improve approximately 27,554 acres of spring, wet meadow, and desert habitats in Ash Meadows ACEC to potential natural community or desired plant community.

#### Objective

**SS-2.** Manage habitat to further sustain the populations of federally listed species so they would no longer need protection of the Endangered Species Act. Manage habitats for non-listed special status species to support viable populations so that future listing would not be necessary.

#### Management Direction

**SS-2-a.** Enter into conservation agreements with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Nevada that, if implemented, could reduce the necessity of future listings of the species in question. Conservation agreements may include, but not be limited to, the following: Blue Diamond cholla, Las Vegas bearpoppy, white-margined penstemon, and *Phainopepla*.

**SS-2-b.** Manage public lands adjacent to the Ash Meadows Area of critical environmental concern and the Moapa National Wildlife Refuge to complement spring and aquatic habitat for special status species, including projects that may affect ground water levels or spring flows.

**SS-2-c.** Maintain approximately 1,920 acres of sand dune habitat on Big Dune in a natural condition to support all species dependent upon dune habitat, with emphasis on special status species.

Objective

**SS-3.** Manage desert tortoise habitat to achieve the recovery criteria defined in the *Tortoise Recovery Plan*<sup>9</sup> and ultimately to achieve delisting of the desert tortoise. When the population in a recovery unit meets the following criteria it may be considered recovered and eligible for delisting (for complete criteria see the *Tortoise Recovery Plan*).

*Criterion 1:* As determined by a scientifically credible monitoring plan, the population within a recovery unit must exhibit a statistically significant upward trend or remain stationary for at least 25 years (one tortoise generation).

*Criterion 2:* Enough habitat must be protected within a recovery unit, or the habitat and desert tortoise populations must be managed intensively enough, to ensure long-term population viability. At least one ACEC (Desert Wildlife Management Area) must be established in each recovery unit that is, except under unusual circumstances, at least 1,000 square miles in area.

Although the *Tortoise Recovery Plan* recommends establishment of at least one desert wildlife management area of 1,000 square miles in each recovery unit, it is not possible to achieve this on public lands in Nevada. The minimally acceptable situation identified in the *Tortoise Recovery Plan* is to establish several smaller desert wildlife management areas that are connected by corridors of functional tortoise habitat. This is the situation in both the Northeastern Mojave and Eastern Mojave Recovery Units.

In the Northeastern Mojave Recovery Unit, approximately 1,780 square miles of desert tortoise habitat are proposed to be managed for recovery of the desert tortoise. This area includes lands managed by the BLM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and NPS in Nevada, Arizona and Utah. Approximately 648 square miles of these lands are managed by the Las Vegas BLM Field Office. In the Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit, the 514 square miles proposed for designation as an ACEC in the Las Vegas District would be combined with additional tortoise habitat in Lake Mead National Recreation Area and in California to meet recovery criteria.

*Criterion 3:* Provisions must be made for population management at each area of environmental concern (Desert Wildlife Management Area) so that discrete population growth rates (lambdas) are maintained at or above 1.0. A lambda of 1.0 indicates a stable or increasing population.

*Criterion 4:* Regulatory mechanisms or land management commitments have been implemented that provide for adequate long-term protection of desert tortoises and their habitat. Delisting would be followed by a loss of protection under the Endangered Species Act; therefore, adequate protection through alternative means is essential before delisting can occur. Reasonable assurance must exist that conditions which brought about population stability will be maintained, or as necessary, improved during the foreseeable future.

<sup>9</sup> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1994. *Desert Tortoise (Mojave Population) Recovery Plan*. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon.

*Criterion 5:* The population in the recovery unit is unlikely to need protection under the Endangered Species Act in the foreseeable future.

Management Direction

**SS-3-a.** Manage 743,209 acres of the four desert tortoise ACECs specifically for desert tortoise recovery (**Map C-2**). Implement the management actions listed below, and on **Table A-2**, in these ACECs:

- a. Minimize impacts to tortoise habitat during fire suppression by minimizing the use of mechanized equipment. and, where possible, staying on existing roads and trails. However, give priority to keeping the wildfire to an absolute minimum.
- b. Manage wild horses and burros for zero appropriate management level within desert tortoise ACECs.
- c. Implement inventory, monitoring, and research projects dealing with management issues within desert tortoise ACECs.
- d. Limit utility corridors to 3,000 feet or less in width.
- e. Do not allow new landfills.
- f. Do not authorize military maneuvers.
- g. Allow development of campgrounds only if consistent with the objectives of the Tortoise Recovery Plan.
- h. On a case-by-case basis, support fencing of highways and moderately-to-heavily traveled dirt roads with tortoise-proof fencing and installation of culverts to allow tortoises to cross under the highway and roads.
- i. Require reclamation of disturbed lands resulting from activities that result in loss or degradation of tortoise habitat with habitat to be reclaimed so that pre-disturbance condition can be reached within a reasonable time frame. Reclamation may include salvage and transplant of cactus and yucca, recontouring of the area, scarification of compacted soil, soil amendments, seeding, and transplant of seedling shrubs. Subsequent seeding or transplanting efforts may be required, if monitoring indicates that the original effort was not successful.
- j. Commercial activities may be permitted, on a case-by-case basis, if not in conflict with recovery of the desert tortoise.
- k. Designate as "limited to designated roads and trails" for all motorized and mechanized vehicles.
- l. Allow non-speed OHV events subject to restrictions identified in RC-I I-f.
- m. Prohibit ORV speed events, mountain bike races, horse endurance rides, 4-wheel drive hill climbs, mini events, publicity rides, high speed testing, and similar speed-based events.
- n. Do not allow commercial collection of flora. Only allow commercial collection of fauna upon completion of a scientifically credible study that demonstrates commercial collection of fauna does not adversely impact affected species or their habitat. This action will not affect hunting or trapping and casual collection as permitted by the State.

- o. In accordance with the BLM/Clark County Interlocal Agreement approved July 1, 1997, BLM will regulate and manage organized recreational activities on County RS2477 roads in accordance with 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 8372.
- p. Campers may pull their vehicles off the edge of the road but must stay within 15 feet of the edge of the road, except in WSAs where the vehicle must remain within the berm of the road.

Objective

**SS-4.** Encourage the obtainment and dissemination of knowledge regarding the Mojave Desert ecosystem including desert tortoise biology.

Management Direction

**SS-4-a.** Manage the Desert Tortoise Conservation Center Management Area (11,014 acres) to support desert tortoise research and other research associated with the Mojave Desert Ecosystem. When feasible, expand the function of the center to include an environmental education/awareness program in close coordination with other federal agencies and state and local governments.

**SS-4-b.** If and when funding is available, expand the existing facilities at the Desert Tortoise Conservation Center Management Area as necessary to accommodate future research and educational needs.

**FORESTRY MANAGEMENT**

Objective

**FR-1.** Maintain woodland and conifer forest where possible for all-aged stands, with an understory vegetation forage value rating at moderate or better.

Management Direction

**FR-1-a.** Firewood cutting and gathering is limited to approved areas subject to restrictions developed for protection of Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive species and other sensitive resources.

**FR-1-b.** Allow harvest of dead and/or down wood or BLM-marked green mesquite "trees" for dwarf mistletoe control only in approved areas.

Objective

**FR-2.** Limit collection or sale of desert vegetation and other vegetative resources for public use to approved areas including disposal areas, ROWs, and gravel pits.

Management Direction

**FR-2-a.** Assess the potential for salvage and/or harvest of desert vegetation at locations where surface-disturbing activities are authorized.

**LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT**

Objective

**LG-1.** Provide for continued grazing of domestic livestock on public lands, consistent with law, regulation, established standards and guidelines and policy on areas open to livestock grazing (see **Map C-3**).

Management Direction

**LG-I-a.** Manage the range resource consistent with the phenological and physiological requirements of key perennial species.

**LG-I-b.** Livestock grazing on all ephemeral allotments will be permitted if on-the-ground evaluations determine that forage is available, and use is consistent with the Standards and Guidelines and allotment specific objectives.

**LG-I-c.** Provide for increased plant vigor and reproductive capability of perennial forage on the open allotments through livestock grazing management.

**LG-I-d.** Maintain static trend or achieve upward trend of key perennial forage species through livestock grazing management.

**LG-I-e.** Salt and mineral supplement will be placed a minimum of one mile from water.

**LG-I-f.** Manage grazing allotments outside the desert tortoise ACECs consistent with grazing Prescription 2 as identified in Biological Opinion File No.: I-5-91-F-36 as amended: Livestock use may occur on open allotments in desert tortoise habitat outside ACECs/Desert Wildlife Management Areas from March 1 to October 14, as long as forage utilization does not exceed 40 percent on key perennial grasses, forbs, and shrubs. Between October 15 and February 28, forage utilization will not exceed 50 percent on key perennial grasses and 45 percent on key shrubs and perennial forbs.

The BLM will reinitiate formal consultation on a case-by-case basis if any change is identified to Prescription 2 in an allotment grazing system.

**LG-I-g.** Close all allotments to livestock grazing within the planning unit, with the following exceptions: Hidden Valley, Mount Stirling, Lower Mormon Mesa, Roach Lake, White Basin, Muddy River, Wheeler Wash, Mesa Cliff, Arrow Canyon in Battleship Wash, Flat Top Mesa, Jean Lake, and Arizona administered allotments (see **Map C-3** for locations and boundaries). That portion of the Jean Lake allotment within the desert tortoise ACEC would be closed to grazing. Close all land disposal areas to livestock grazing (see **Map C-5**).

**LG-I-h.** Designate allotments that currently have an existing closure as permanently closed. Designate all unallotted areas within southern Nye County as permanently closed to livestock grazing.

**LG-I-i.** Additional allotment closures could be approved based on voluntary relinquishment of grazing privileges, permits, or leases. **The BLM accepted voluntary relinquishment on the following allotments and are managing the allotments as unavailable to grazing:**

- **Arrow Canyon (2000)**
- **Arrow Canyon in Battleship Wash (2003)**
- **Jean Lake (2006)**
- **Mesa Cliff (2000)**
- **Roach Lake (2000)**
- **White Basin (2000)**

**LG-1-j.** The type of livestock that will be authorized on each allotment is identified in **Table A-8**. Changes to the type of livestock may be made following site-specific environmental analysis.

**Table A-8. Kind of Livestock**

Horses and Cattle	Cattle
Flat Top Mesa	Arrow Canyon
Lower Mormon Mesa	Jean Lake
Mesa Cliff	Hidden Valley
—	Mt. Stirling
—	Muddy River
—	Roach Lake
—	Wheeler Wash
—	White Basin

Objective

**LG-2.** Establish grazing management systems including rest rotation, deferred rest rotation, or other management approaches as needed to meet specific resource management objectives.

Management Direction

**LG-2-a.** Include water availability for all uses as part of any grazing system, considering riparian areas, livestock, wildlife, wild horses and burros.

**LG-2-b.** Develop range improvements, as needed, to reach more uniform distribution of livestock consistent with management objectives.

**LG-2-c.** Incorporate Standards and Guidelines into all livestock use authorizations, grazing systems, and management plans to ensure rangeland health improved or maintained (see Appendix L of the 1998 Proposed RMP/Final EIS).

Objective

**LG-3.** Manage allotments open to grazing using the "selective management" approach (see **Map C-3** and LG-3-a for open allotments).

Management Direction

**LG-3-a.** Drop existing categories from allotments closed to livestock grazing. Other direction:

- Arrow Canyon and White Basin will remain "M"
- Hidden Valley, Jean Lake, Wheeler Wash, and Mount Stirling will remain "I"
- Mesa Cliff, Muddy River and Roach Lake will remain "C"
- Change Lower Mormon Mesa from "C" to "I"
- Change Flat Top Mesa from "C" to "M"
- The category for the three allotments administered by Arizona will not be changed.

**WILD HORSE AND BURRO MANAGEMENT**

*Objective*

**WHB-1.** In Herd Management Areas not constrained by desert tortoise restrictions (see **Map C-4 and Map C-2**), manage for healthy, genetically viable herds of wild horses and/or burros in a natural, thriving ecological balance with other rangeland uses (see **Table A-9**).

**Table A-9. Wild Horse and Burro Herd Management Areas**

<b>Herd Management Area</b>	<b>Initial Herd Size (Burros)</b>	<b>Estimated AML (Burros)</b>	<b>Initial Herd Size (Horses)</b>	<b>Estimated AML (Horses)</b>
Eldorado	75	0	N/A	N/A
Gold Butte	600	98	N/A	N/A
Muddy Mountains	110	50	29	0
Red Rocks	130	50	50	50
Johnnie	300	75	125	50
Amargosa	0	0	0	0
Ash Meadows <sup>1</sup>	0	0	0	0

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Ash Meadows herd management area was inadvertently left out of previous planning documents.

*Management Direction*

**WHB-1-a.** Establish Appropriate Management Levels within Herd Management Areas (see **Table A-9**).

**WHB-1-b.** Adjust the Appropriate Management Level identified for each Herd Management Area when monitoring determines the animal population, forage, water, riparian, and other ecosystem management objectives are not being met.

**WHB-1-c.** Limit utilization of current year's production by all herbivores on key perennial forage species within Herd Management Areas to 50 percent for grasses and 45 percent for shrubs and forbs.

**WHB-1-d.** Develop and maintain dependable water sources, consistent with BLM policy for wilderness management, to allow more even distribution of horses and burros throughout the Herd Management Areas.

**WHB-1-e.** Use by wild horses and burros will not be allowed in that portion of the Gold Butte Herd Management Area that overlaps with the desert tortoise Gold Butte ACEC (Gold Butte Part A).

**WHB-1-f.** No new wild horse or burro ranges will be recommended for approval by the Director.

*Objective*

**WHB-2.** Maintain the wild, free-roaming character of the wild horses and burros on the public lands.

*Management Direction*

**WHB-2-a.** To facilitate management consistent with distinct population units, realign the following Herd Management Areas (see **Map C-4**):



- Red Rocks Herd Management Area (formerly part of Spring Mountains Herd Management Area).
- Wheeler Pass Herd Management Area (formerly part of Spring Mountains Herd Management Area).
- Johnnie Herd Management Area (formerly Last Chance and Mt. Stirling Herd Management Areas).

**WHB-2-b.** Adopt Herd Management Area boundaries to existing 1971 locations; this will increase the size of some Herd Management Areas but will not decrease any in size (see **Map C-4**).

**WHB-2-c.** Develop/maintain memorandums of understanding for coordinated herd management with the NPS and U.S. Forest Service where Herd Management Areas extend across administrative boundaries.

**WHB-2-d.** Wild horses and burros that become problem animals or traffic hazards on Nevada State Routes 159 and 160 or in urban areas will be removed as soon as possible.

**WHB-2-e.** Wild horses and burros will be scheduled for removal as expeditiously as possible from fenced private lands within the planning area, after a request is made by the private landowner and reasonable efforts to restrict the animals from private property have failed.

**WHB-2-f.** Wild horses and burros will be removed when animals are residing on lands outside the Herd Management Area or when the Appropriate Management Level is exceeded.

**WHB-2-g.** Construct underpasses or other structures within highway ROWs to allow safe passage of wild horses and burros. Appropriate locations will be determined by BLM and the Nevada Department of Transportation in coordination with affected interests.

## **CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

### Objective

**CR-1.** Identify and protect cultural and paleontological resources in conformance with applicable legislation and BLM policy.

### Management Direction

The following management directions are based on a variety of attributes for those kinds of sites discussed in **Table A-10**. The attributes include the potential for the extraction or preservation of scientific data, site integrity, the isolated nature of certain properties, and an assessed potential for impacts from recreational activities. Each site type possesses one or more uses with applicable prescriptions for management according to that displayed in **Table A-10**.

**CR-1a.** Manage the following for information potential: roasting pit, camp/open lithic scatter, rock feature, and historic trash scatter site types. These kinds of sites should be subject to the following direction:

**CR-1a-1.** Utilize data recovery efforts through research designs to attempt to mitigate adverse effects to cultural resources and paleontological sites from proposed federal actions.

**Table A-10. Management Direction for Archaeological Site Types and Cultural Resources**

Site Type	Site Type	Management Use	Prescription
Prehistoric	Rockshelter <sup>1</sup>	Information	Data recovery plan
	Rockshelter <sup>2</sup>	Conservation	Monitoring/protection
	Rockshelter <sup>3</sup>	Public Uses	Activity plan
	Roasting pit <sup>4</sup>	Information	Data recovery plan
	Camp/lithic scatter <sup>4</sup>	Information	Data recovery plan
	Rock feature <sup>4</sup>	Information	Data recovery plan
	Structural remains <sup>1</sup>	Information	Data recovery plan
	Structural remains <sup>2</sup>	Conservation	Monitoring/protection
	Structural remains <sup>3</sup>	Public Uses	Activity plan
	Rock Art <sup>1</sup>	Information	Data recovery plan
	Rock Art <sup>2</sup>	Conservation	Monitoring/protection
	Rock Art <sup>3</sup>	Public Uses	Activity plan
	Historic	Structural remains <sup>1</sup>	Information
Structural remains <sup>2</sup>		Conservation	Monitoring/protection
Structural remains <sup>3</sup>		Public Uses	Activity plan
Trash/debris scatter <sup>4</sup>		Information	Data recovery plan
Road/trail <sup>1</sup>		Information	Recordation
Road/trail <sup>2</sup>		Conservation	Monitoring/protection
Road/trail <sup>3</sup>		Public Uses	Activity plan
Traditional Lifeway Areas	Traditional Lifeway Areas	Conservation	Native American consultation monitoring

Key:

<sup>1</sup> Located in area proposed for severe disturbance or total destruction from federal actions

<sup>2</sup> Located in relative isolated area, not projected for intensive recreational uses or federal actions

<sup>3</sup> Located in area projected for intensive recreational use

<sup>4</sup> Located in any area; representative samples for conservation previously selected

**CR-1a-2.** Study known cultural and paleontological sites not expected to incur impacts from federal actions as a result of using proactive research designs. The designs may be initiated by BLM or independent researchers subject to the concurrence of BLM and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

**CR-1a-3.** Representative samples of each site type will be preserved for conservation purposes.

**CR-1a-4.** Manage cultural resources on 1,500 acres of public lands within the Virgin River Anasazi prehistoric district for the potential to yield scientific or historic information.

**CR-1b.** Manage the following for conservation potential: rockshelter, rock art locale, prehistoric and historic remains, mining sites, and historic road/trail site types, which are located in areas that do not receive intensive recreational uses. These kinds of sites should be subjected to the following direction:

**CR-1b-1.** Manage cultural resources on 11,759 acres of public lands at Red Rock Spring and Stump Springs, the Hidden Valley district, the Arden Historic Sites, the Crescent and Gold Butte mining town sites, and the South Virgin Peak Ridge District for conservation of their overriding scientific or historic importance.

**CR-1b-2.** Release cultural resource sites designed for "management for conservation" only after development of a memorandum of agreement between BLM, the SHPO, and the Advisory

Council on Historic Preservation. This document would detail efforts to conduct intensive documentation or retrieve the physical remains of the property.

**CR-1b-3.** Manage paleontological resources on 40 acres of public lands within the Arrow Canyon Bird Track paleontological site for conservation of its overriding scientific or historic importance.

**CR-1b-4.** Release paleontological sites designated for "management for conservation" uses only after the development of a research design approved by BLM to remove the specimens, create casts of the objects, and provide interpretive exhibits.

**CR-1c.** Manage the following for public uses: rockshelter, rock art locale, prehistoric and historic structural remains, mining sites, and historic road/trail site types located in areas that have sustained, or are projected to receive, intensive recreational uses.

**CR-1c-1.** Manage cultural resources on 3,660 acres of public lands within the Arrow Canyon Rock Art District, Keyhole Canyon, Frenchman Mine, and Gypsum Cave areas for public values that include sociocultural, educational, and recreational uses.

**CR-1c-2.** Develop programs that use surveillance to monitor resources with public value uses. Where analysis of monitoring results indicates a need for further protection, construct or install physical barriers, as appropriate.

**CR-1d.** Manage cultural resources on approximately 200,000 acres of Traditional Lifeway Areas within the **Southern Nevada** BLM District for their sociological values by providing for their protection and preservation.

This direction would primarily be accomplished by inviting Native American Traditional cultural groups to provide information to BLM concerning sensitivity of cultural values on federal lands in Traditional Lifeway Areas. These lands are not available for disposal.

**CR-1e.** Selected cultural resources should be designated as priorities for activity planning and determining best use potential. These include historic remains in Gold Butte, Crescent, Goodsprings, and Searchlight mining districts, as well as the Hidden Valley Archeological District in the Muddy Mountains. There are also special cultural resource considerations that may affect the location, timing, or method of development or use of other resources in the planning area. These resources include plants or animals essential to maintaining cultural integrity of a Traditional Lifeway Area.

## **LANDS MANAGEMENT**

### Objective

#### Land Disposal Areas

**LD-1.** Approximately **157,237** acres of public lands within the disposal areas identified on **Map C-5** are potentially available for disposal through sale, exchange, or Recreation and Public Purpose patent to provide for the orderly expansion and development of southern Nevada.

#### Management Direction

**LD-1-a.** Unauthorized use of public lands outside established disposal areas may be resolved through direct sale, if proven the action was not willful or was due to an erroneous survey; or if remediation of existing hazardous substances on the property would be too costly.

**Table A-11. Disposal Areas**

<b>Disposal Areas</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Amargosa Valley	27,637
Apex	4,651
Goodsprings	951
Indian Springs South (Indian Springs Prison)	1,301
Indian Springs North	384
Ivanpah Airport Environs Overlay District	14,454
Ivanpah Conveyance	2,351
Las Vegas Metro	<1
Lathrop Wells	5,621
Laughlin	3,542
Mesquite/Bunkerville	5,898
Moapa/Glendale (Moapa, Moapa Valley, and Glendale)	39,964
Nelson	799
Pahrump	8,454
Sandy Valley	3,976
Searchlight	2,034
SNPLMA	32,201
Spring Mountain Raceway LLC	1,249
Sunrise Landfill	798
Valley West	967
<b>Total</b>	<b>157,237</b>

**LD-I-b.** Public lands located outside established disposal areas would be considered for repositioning to consolidate BLM parcels into a more contiguous land pattern and to improve public services and BLM land management. Repositioning would occur on a case-by-case basis, by exchange only, provided that:

1. The lands would serve the purpose of: a) community expansion and economic development b) local government needs, or c) to facilitate federal land management and minimize BLM administrative costs.
2. The lands are not adjacent to Congressionally mandated disposal boundaries.
3. Lands to be disposed are located outside any ACEC, Traditional Lifeway Area, Special Recreation Management Area, Right-of-way corridor, WSA, active communication site, riparian site, or cultural sites eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.
4. The public lands are not encumbered by an existing permit or lease that would preclude the disposal action.
5. The lands do not include habitat of Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Species, or other crucial wildlife habitat.
6. Other public uses of the parcel are of less value.
7. The parcel of land is for a specific purpose and is no longer required for any other federal purpose.
8. Local communities support the exchange, and there is close coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Nevada Division of Wildlife, and Clark County.

9. Public access would be improved.

10. Any other specific values or concerns not identified above would be analyzed at the time of the proposal to determine if the disposal would be in the public's best interest.

**LD-I-c.** Public lands within the **Southern Nevada** BLM District are not suitable for entry under Indian Allotment, Desert Land Entry or the Carey Act, and would not be disposed of through those authorities.

**LD-I-d.** Recreation and Public Purpose leases identified for sale prior to approval of this plan, which were located inside a disposal area under the current management plan and are outside the proposed disposal areas, would remain available for sale to the current lessee or assignee.

**LD-I-e.** Approximately 9,423 acres of BLM inholdings within Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge are available for withdrawal by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for inclusion in the refuge.

**LD-I-f.** Approximately 11,014 acres of the Desert Tortoise Conservation Center Management Area are available for withdrawal by other federal agencies when such transfer would further objective SS-4.

**LD-I-g.** BLM-administered lands in the congressionally mandated Ivanpah Airport Environs Overlay District disposal area are to be transferred to Clark County. This is consistent with the 2002 Clark County Act, FLPMA, and federal regulation and policy. Subject to valid existing rights, this legislative disposal area is withdrawn from location and entry under the mining laws and from operation under the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws. This is the case until the Secretary of the Interior terminates the withdrawal or the land is patented.

**LD-I-h.** BLM-administered lands in the Ivanpah Land Conveyance disposal area will be transferred to Clark County. This is consistent with Section 3092(i) of PL 113-291, for the development of flood mitigation infrastructure for the proposed Ivanpah Valley Airport. Land conveyance would be subject to valid existing rights and would include terms and conditions, as deemed necessary. The Ivanpah Land Conveyance disposal area is withdrawn from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws and operation under the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws. On conveyance, the mineral estate would be reserved, except for purposes related to flood mitigation, including removal from aggregate floods and construction and operation of the airport. The mineral estate may be conveyed only once the FAA has approved the airport layout plan.

**LD-I-i.** BLM-administered lands within the Sunrise Landfill disposal area are to be transferred to Clark County consistent with the 2008 Consent Decree and Settlement Agreement (Civil Action No. 2:08-cv-01024), FLPMA, and federal regulation and policy.

**LD-I-j.** Dispose up to 2,654 acres for future private development within the Upper Las Vegas Wash Study Area consistent with SNPLMA, as amended, and the RODs for the 2011 Upper Las Vegas Wash Conservation Transfer Area Final SEIS<sup>10</sup> and the 2004 Las Vegas Valley Disposal Boundary Final EIS.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> BLM. 2011. Record of Decision and Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Upper Las Vegas Wash Conservation Transfer Area, Las Vegas, Nevada. Southern Nevada District Office, Las Vegas, Nevada.

<sup>11</sup> BLM. 2004. Las Vegas Valley Disposal Boundary Final Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision. FEIS 04-048. Las Vegas Field Office, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Objective

Land Use Authorizations

**LD-2.** All public lands within the planning area, unless otherwise classified, segregated or withdrawn, and with the exception of ACECs and WSAs, are available at the discretion of the agency, for land use leases and permits under Section 302 of Federal Land Policy and Management Act and for airport leases under the authority of the Act of May 24, 1928, as amended.

Management Direction

**LD-2-a.** Land use lease or permit applications and airport lease applications will be addressed on a case-by-case basis, where consistent with other resource management objectives and local land uses. Special terms and conditions regarding use of the public lands involved will be developed as applicable.

Objective

Land Classification/Segregations

**LD-3.** Terminate or modify any unused, outdated, or unnecessary classifications/segregations and withdrawals on public lands to reduce the area of segregation in the plan area.

Management Direction

**LD-3-a.** In consultation with the appropriate federal agency or applicant, review existing and pending classifications/segregations and withdrawals to determine if there is a continued need for them. Consideration will be given to withdrawal of approximately 1,500 acres of public land adjacent to Nellis Air Force Base in support of the Department of Defense's Ammunition and Explosives Safety Program.

**LD-3-b.** The following small tract classifications will be terminated:

T. 25 S., R. 59 E. BLM, BLM Order 2/18/63, Small Tract CI I

T. 22 S., R. 60 E., BLM, BLM Order 4/28/72, Small Tract CI 106

**Renewable Energy (Solar and Wind)**

Objective<sup>12</sup>

**LD-4**

- Identify specific lands where renewable energy development would be allowed, excluded, and/or avoided.
- Adopt adaptive management strategies to ensure that potential environmental impacts are kept to a minimum.

**LD-4-a.** Manage solar energy development as a result of land-use planning consistent with the 2012 Solar ROD,<sup>13</sup> specifically those areas identified as designated leasing areas (formerly solar energy zones [SEZs]), avoidance (variance), or exclusion. See **Map C-6**.

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<sup>12</sup> Actions are from decisions in the BLM's 2012 Solar Programmatic EIS Record of Decision and 2005 Wind Programmatic EIS ROD

<sup>13</sup> BLM. 2012. Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments/Record of Decision (ROD) for Solar Energy Development in Six Southwestern States. Bureau of Land Management, Washington, DC.

- Solar exclusion areas: 2,144,100 acres
- Solar avoidance (variance) areas: 933,400 acres
- Areas for solar development (designated leasing areas): 13,900 acres

**LD-4-b.** Manage wind energy development as a result of land-use planning consistent with the 2005 Wind PEIS ROD,<sup>14</sup> specifically those areas identified as open, avoidance, or exclusion. See **Map C-7**.

- Wind exclusion areas: 1,994,000 acres
- Areas open for wind development: 1,097,500 acres
- Wind avoidance areas: none identified

**LD-4-c.** To minimize impacts on groundwater-dependent species, the BLM will require applicants to implement conservation measures.

**LD-4-d.** Wind energy applications will adhere to the best management practices for wind energy development established in the Wind PEIS ROD signed in December 2005 (incorporated by reference).

**Designated Leasing Areas (formerly Solar Energy Zones)**

Objective<sup>15</sup>

**LD-5**

- Facilitate utility-scale solar energy development on public lands.
- Minimize potential negative environmental impacts and social and economic impacts.
- Provide flexibility to the solar industry to consider a variety of solar energy projects (i.e., location, facility size, and technology).

**LD-5-a.** Consistent with the 2012 Solar PEIS and ROD, manage the following designated leasing areas (formerly SEZs). See **Map C-6**:

- Amargosa Valley (8,200 acres)<sup>16</sup>
- Dry Lake (5,700 acres)

**LD-5-b.** Consistent with the 2012 Solar PEIS and ROD, variance areas are made up of BLM-administered lands that are outside SEZs and not otherwise excluded by the Solar Energy Program. The BLM will consider ROW applications for utility-scale solar energy development in variance areas on a case-by-case basis based on environmental considerations; coordination with appropriate federal, state, and local agencies and tribes; and public outreach. This evaluation is referred to as the variance process.

**LD-5-c.** There are two instances where a pending or grandfathered application would be subject to the 2012 Solar PEIS and ROD. Amendments to pending/grandfathered applications

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<sup>14</sup> BLM. 2005. Implementation of a Wind Energy Development Program and Associated Land Use Plan Amendments. Bureau of Land Management, Washington, DC.

<sup>15</sup> Actions are from decisions in the BLM's 2012 Solar Programmatic EIS Record of Decision.

<sup>16</sup> Amargosa Valley acres are determined by the BLM Geographic Coordinate Data Base, not the acres stated in the Solar PEIS ROD.

will still be processed consistent with this management prescription provided that such amendments either (1) do not change the boundaries of the pending ROW applications; or (2) are related to avoiding resource or land use conflicts, adapting the project to third-party-owned infrastructure constraints, or using or designating translocation or mitigation lands. In the 2012 Solar PEIS ROD, “pending” applications are defined as any applications (regardless of place in line) filed within proposed variance and/or exclusion areas before the publication of the Supplement to the Draft Solar PEIS (October 28, 2011), and any applications filed within proposed SEZs (Amargosa Valley and Dry Lake SEZ) before June 30, 2009.

**LD-5-d.** Solar energy applications, except grandfathered applications received by October 28, 2011, will adhere to the programmatic design features for solar energy development identified in Appendix A of the Final Solar PEIS (incorporated by reference) and adopted in the Solar PEIS ROD (incorporated by reference) and the mitigation measures identified in the programmatic biological opinion (Service File No. 84320–2012–F-0200).

## **RIGHTS-OF-WAY MANAGEMENT**

### Objective

**RW-I.** Meet public demand and reduce impacts to sensitive resources by providing an orderly system of development for transportation, including legal access to private inholdings, communications, flood control, major utility transmission lines, and related facilities.

### Management Direction

**RW-I-a.** Designate the following corridors:

1. A corridor 1,400 feet wide from the north side of the Sunrise Instant Study Area south through Rainbow Gardens to the Lake Mead crossover.

This corridor is described as west of the east boundary of the IPP-McCullough power lines. Activation and use of this corridor is contingent upon Congressional action releasing the Instant Study Area from further wilderness consideration and study.

2. See **Map C-8** for the location of the proposed corridor designations in this alternative. An approximate total of 158,806 acres are involved, including legislative designations and the proposed Sunrise Mountain designation. The corridors range in width from 400 feet to 3,500 feet.

**RW-I-b.** Do not extend the following corridors:

1. The corridor entering Nevada at Nipton Road and designated as Contingent Corridor W in the California Desert Conservation Area Plan, dated 1980, will not be carried forward in this alternative. The 1988 *Mojave National Scenic Area Management Plan* recommended elimination of the corridor; this was accomplished by a plan amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan.
2. Corridor K-G described and identified in the Esmeralda-Southern Nye Resource Management Plan (1986) will not be carried forward in this alternative. This area is constrained by natural and man-made features including mountains, the Amargosa River, the Low-Level Nuclear Waste Site, and the town of Beatty. An adjacent corridor to the east of this area has the capability to handle foreseeable future powerlines.



3. The corridor designated along the eastern boundary of U.S. Highway 93 between the Aerojet Conveyance Area and the Apex Project Area will not tie into the corridor designated inside the west boundary of the Apex project area. Per an industry request, the corridor will stop approximately 5 miles short of the project area, continue east, and tie into the corridor extending southwesterly from the Moapa Indian Reservation.

**RW-1-c.** When feasible, and where compatible, major pipeline ROWs will be placed within powerline corridors.

**RW-1-d.** Provide ROW access for local flood control agencies to develop or maintain flood control developments, consistent with ROW avoidance and exclusion areas.

**RW-1-e.** Except as identified in RW-1-f and RW-1-g, all ACECs and all lands within 0.25 miles of significant caves, *exclusive of any designated corridors*, are designated as ROW avoidance areas. This management direction also applies to RW-2 below.

**RW-1-f.** Linear ROW exclusion areas are limited to the Hidden Valley District, Sloan Rock Art, and Big Dune ACECs.

**RW-1-g.** Site-type ROW exclusion areas are limited to all ACECs, except within 0.50 miles on either side of Federal Aid Highways. This management direction also applies to RW-2 below.

**RW-1-h.** All public land within the planning area, except as stated in RW-1-c through RW-1-g, are available at the discretion of the agency for ROWs under the authority of the Federal Land Policy Management Act.

Objective

**RW-2.** Maximize the use of existing communication sites and prevent the proliferation of scattered single user sites.

Management Direction

**RW-2-a.** See **Map C-8** for the present location of existing established communication sites that will be carried forward in this alternative.

**RW-2-b.** Authorization of future communication site ROWs would be handled as follows:

*Communication Sites with a Site Management Plan*

1. Facilities authorized under new ROWs will be constructed in accordance with an approved Site Management Plan.

*Communication Sites without a Site Management Plan*

2. New ROWs will be authorized within and on existing ROWs and facilities.

This direction also includes communication site facilities not ordinarily located on a mountain top, such as AM radio facilities, personal communications service facilities, and cellular telephone sites. Personal communications service facilities will most likely occur along transportation corridors such as interstate highways.

**RW-2-c.** Requests for new communication sites will generally be processed as follows:

1. Competitive bidding procedures will be utilized.
2. Multi-user facilities will be constructed.

3. Site users will jointly form a committee and develop a Site Management Plan.

See MN-1-n for Objectives and Management Direction regarding material site ROWs.

### **Transportation and Utility Corridors**

#### Objective<sup>17</sup>

**RW-3.** Meet public demand and reduce impacts on sensitive resources by providing an orderly system of development for transportation and major utility transmission lines and related facilities.

#### Management Direction

**RW-3-a.** Per the 2009 Record of Decision<sup>18</sup> for the West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (WWEC PEIS), the designated 1,400-foot-wide corridor is amended to 3,500 feet wide (labeled 39-231) from the north side of the Sunrise Instant Study Area south through Rainbow Gardens to the Lake Mead crossover. This corridor is described as west of the east boundary of the IPP-McCullough power lines. Activation and use of this corridor is contingent upon congressional action releasing the instant study area from further wilderness consideration and study. (Note: The width of this corridor within T.20S., R.63E., secs. 23 and 26 is legislatively narrowed to 500 feet wide pursuant to the 2002 Clark County Act and by the land-use plan amendment per the 2009 WWEC PEIS. Furthermore, in January 2014, Section 115(a) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act (H.R. 3547-309) released the Sunrise Mountain Instant Study Area from further wilderness consideration and study).

**RW-3-b.** An approximate total of 158,806 acres of proposed corridor designations are involved, including legislative designations and the proposed Sunrise Mountain designation. The corridors range in width from 400 feet to 3,500 feet, for a total length of approximately 538 miles. See **Map C-8**.

**RW-3-c.** Manage the congressionally mandated Interstate Route 15 South Corridor (or Ivanpah Valley Corridor) consistent with the 2002 Clark County Act to provide for high-quality development in Clark County. This corridor extends along Interstate 15 south of the Las Vegas Valley to the Nevada and California state line. Pursuant to the 2002 Clark County Act, this corridor is legislatively restricted to a width of 2,640 feet between the Las Vegas Valley and the proposed Ivanpah Airport for the placement, on a nonexclusive basis, of utilities and transportation. Subject to valid existing rights, the corridor is withdrawn from location and entry under the mining laws and from operation under the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws. This is the case until the Secretary of the Interior terminates the withdrawal or the corridor or land is patented.

**RW-3-d.** Manage the congressionally mandated Moapa Corridor consistent with PL 96-491 (December 2, 1980), ROW regulation and policy, and the MOU between the BLM and the Office of Special Trustee for American Indians. This corridor is legislatively restricted to a width of 3,000 feet. This corridor starts at the most northeastern part of the Moapa River Indian Reservation, in MDM, T. 15 S., R. 65 E., secs. 12 and 13, running southwest through the

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<sup>17</sup> Actions are from decisions in the BLM's 2009 West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic EIS Record of Decision.

<sup>18</sup> BLM. 2009. Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments/Record of Decision (ROD) for Designation of Energy Corridors on Bureau of Land Management-Administered Lands in the 11 Western States, BLM/WO-GI-09-005-1800. Bureau of Land Management, Washington, DC.

reservation, terminating just north of the Crystal substation in T. 16 S., R. 64 E., secs. 32, 33, and 34. Pursuant to PL 96-491, the Secretary of the Interior has the authority through FLPMA to grant and administer ROWs through this congressionally designated corridor.

**RW-3-e.** Manage those federally excepted and reserved transportation and utility corridors in those lands patented in accordance with the Eldorado Valley Transfer Act (PL 85-339, as amended) and ROW regulation and policy. The Eldorado Valley corridors are southeast of Las Vegas, south of Henderson and Boulder City, and east of the McCullough Mountains in Clark County. The Eldorado Valley corridors range in width from 2,000 to 3,000 feet.

**RW-3-f.** Manage the legislative Apex Corridor consistent with PL 101-67. The Apex Corridor starts in MDM, T. 17 S., R. 63 E., sec. 32 and continues south along the western boundary. It extends south next to the east boundary from MDM, T. 18 S., R. 63 E., secs. 13 and 14 through the Apex site. There are multiple Apex corridors that extend through the Apex site, with widths that vary up to 3,500 feet.

**RW-3-g.** Manage the Renewable Energy Transmission Corridor as established by Congress on December 9, 2014, pursuant to Section 3092(a)(4) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, PL 113-291 (NDAA Act). This 400-foot-wide ROW energy corridor is for the construction and maintenance of high-voltage transmission facilities and is partially withdrawn from entry under the public land laws; location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and operation under the mineral leasing, geothermal leasing, and mineral materials laws. Use of this corridor would be compatible with the intent of Congress and would not negatively affect existing and future uses of the corridor. The ROW would expire on December 9, 2029, if construction of the high-voltage transmission facilities has not begun by that date, unless it is in the public interest to continue it.

**RW-3-h.** Manage the water conveyance facilities corridor (also labeled as the North Valley Lateral) as established by Congress on December 9, 2014, pursuant to Section 3092(a)(5) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, PL 113-291 (NDAA Act). This 100-foot-wide water conveyance facilities corridor is for issuance of ROWs to a unit of local government or public water agency for the construction, maintenance, repair, and replacement of a buried water conveyance pipeline and associated facilities. Use of this corridor would be compatible with the intent of Congress and would not negatively affect existing and future uses of the corridor. No ROW for the water conveyance facilities would be granted in the portion of the Renewable Energy Transmission Corridor that is along the Moccasin Drive alignment, which is generally between MDM, T.18S., and T.19S.

**RW-3-i.** Manage those corridors designated as West-Wide Energy Corridors (WWEC) consistent with Section 368 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (PL 109-58, the 2008 Final Programmatic EIS [DOE/EIS-0386], the January 2009 BLM RMP Amendment/Record of Decision, and the July 2012 court-approved settlement agreement for the *Wilderness Society v. United States Department of the Interior*, No. 3:09-cv-03048-JW [D.N.D. Cal.], referred as the Settlement). Per the Settlement, the BLM, U.S. Forest Service, and Department of Energy developed an interagency work group and entered into a MOU that was approved on July 8, 2013. The MOU and corresponding work plans provide the framework for future corridor studies and periodic regional reviews of corridors.

Furthermore, the Settlement specified a number of corridors with a variety of environmental, cultural, and other concerns (corridor of concern). It also specified a process for the ongoing use and modification of corridors, including revisions to, deletions from, and additions of designated corridors, taking into consideration certain principles, such as location of corridors in favorable landscapes; facilitation of renewable energy projects where feasible; avoidance of environmentally sensitive areas to the maximum extent practicable; minimization of the proliferation of dispersed ROWs crossing the landscape; and improvement of the long-term benefits of reliable and safe energy transmission. These corridors are referred to as WWEC or Section 368 corridors.

**RW-3-j.** Use of interagency operating procedures is required, as defined in Appendix B of the 2009 ROD for the WWEC PEIS for projects sited/proposed in Section 368 corridors. The interagency operating procedures provide uniform processing and performance criteria for energy transportation ROWs during project planning, construction, operation, and decommissioning.

## **ACQUISITIONS MANAGEMENT**

### Objective

**AQ-I.** To acquire private lands to enhance the recovery of special status species, protect valuable resources and facilitate the management of adjacent BLM lands. Secure legal and physical on-the-ground access to otherwise inaccessible public lands.

### Management Direction

#### Land Acquisition Needs

Land acquisition needs will generally be processed through the land exchange program; however, if the opportunity arises lands may be acquired by donations, Congressionally appropriated funds, or compensation funds.

**AQ-I-a.** The following land acquisition priorities are based on finding willing sellers:

1. Private lands required to meet management objectives within designated ACECs, WSAs, recommended Wilderness Areas, Congressionally designated areas, Threatened and Endangered Species habitat, and areas containing special status species.
2. Lands located within the district, conveyed into private ownership to Aerojet Corporation through P.L. 100-275. The lands involved are located in Coyote Spring Valley and will be retained in federal ownership as part of Coyote Springs ACEC.
3. Private lands along the Virgin River, south of Riverside.
4. Lands not specifically identified for acquisition could be acquired on a case-by-case basis for the following reasons: a) protect Threatened and Endangered Species and Special Status Species. b) provide resource protection. c) facilitate implementation of the Resource Management Plan. d) provide a more manageable land ownership pattern. e) maintain or enhance public uses and values.

**AQ-I-b.** The BLM will not acquire contaminated property.

**RECREATION MANAGEMENT**

Objective

**RC-1.** Ensure that a wide range of recreation opportunities are available for recreation users in concert with protecting the natural resources on public lands that attract users.

Management Direction

**RC-1-a.** Primary management emphasis will be on resource-based uses, not facility-based uses.

**RC-1-b.** Designate the following Special Recreation Management Areas as areas where BLM will concentrate the majority of its recreation management program effort (see RC-2 through RC-9):

- Muddy Mountains
- Nellis Dunes
- Sunrise Mountain
- Las Vegas Valley
- Nelson Hills
- Jean/Roach Dry Lakes
- Laughlin
- Big Dune

Lands outside the Special Recreation Management Areas will be included within the Southern Nevada Extensive Recreation Management Area (see RC-10 and **Map C-9**).

**RC-1-c.** Limit recreation facility development and special designations to those necessary for resource protection.

**RC-1-d.** Retain the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum inventory classifications and opportunity settings as a long-term management goal for all actions.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum designations (as described in detail in Chapter 3 of the 1998 Proposed RMP/Final EIS; see Map 3-17 of that document) include the following:

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Semi-primitive Nonmotorized	276,570
Semi-primitive Motorized	651,414
Roaded Natural	1,928,640
Rural	350,626
Urban	124,645

**RC-1-e.** Support the Nevada Division of Wildlife in an effort to maintain and improve hunting opportunities in Clark County.

**RC-1-f.** Designate the desert tortoise ACECs as Special Areas under 43 CPR 8372 to provide improved management and coordination between recreational uses and tortoise habitat management

### **Muddy Mountains Special Recreation Management Area**

#### Objective

**RC-2.** Manage 128,300 acres of the Muddy Mountain area to provide semi-primitive recreation opportunities and integrated management of wildlife habitat, cultural resources, and other recreational uses (see **Map C-9**).

#### Management Direction

**RC-2-a.** Manage the majority of the area (78,480 acres) for semi-primitive non-motorized recreation opportunities.

**RC-2-b.** Manage the remaining area (44,897 acres) for semi-primitive motorized recreation opportunities.

### **Nellis Dunes Special Recreation Management Area**

#### Objective

**RC-3.** Manage 9,400 acres of the Nellis Dunes as an open area for intensive ORV and other recreation opportunities, including organized ORV events, casual ORV free-play, picnicking, photography, and other non-ORV commercial and competitive permitted activities (see **Map C-9**).

#### Management Direction

**RC-3-a.** Permit ORV free-play and high-speed, competitive OHV events of all types within the Special Recreation Management Area.

**RC-3-b.** Prohibit recreational and target shooting in the Special Recreation Management Area, to coincide with Clark County's shooting ordinance.

**RC-3-c.** Consider cooperative ventures, such as concession leases to enhance recreation opportunities.

### **Sunrise Mountain Special Recreation Management Area**

#### Objective

**RC-4.** Manage 38,600 acres of the Sunrise/Frenchman Mountain/Rainbow Gardens Special Recreation Management Area for recreation opportunities in concert with sensitive plant, scenic, cultural, and geologic values of the concurrent ACEC (see **Map C-9**).

#### Management Direction

**RC-4-a.** Prohibit speed based motorcycle/truck/buggy ORV events. Limit mountain bike events to designated roads and trails until completion of long-term planning in the Recreation Area Management Plan.

**RC-4-b.** Allow non-speed events (such as all-terrain bicycle events, motorcycle trials, noncompetitive ORV events, and commercial permitted events and activities) on designated roads and trails on a case-by-case basis until completion of long-term planning in the Recreation Area Management Plan.

**RC-4-c.** Encourage cooperative ventures, such as concession leases, to enhance recreation opportunities.

**RC-4-d.** Concentrate major power line transmission ROWs within the confines of the designated utility corridor to reduce conflicts with recreation and to reduce impacts to scenic resources, such as Rainbow Gardens and Lava Butte.

**RC-4-e.** This area will be closed to casual recreational shooting in accordance with Clark County's No-shooting for the Las Vegas Valley.

### **Las Vegas Valley Special Recreation Management Area**

#### Objective

**RC-5.** Coordinate with county and city governments to manage 87,000 acres in the Las Vegas Valley to facilitate the provision of open space areas, recreational trails, and parks necessary for valley residents (see **Map C-9**).

#### Management Direction

**RC-5-a.** Identify land for reserve recreational trail, open space, parks, etc. as needed, prior to land disposals. Reservation should be done through Recreation and Public Purpose applications by local governmental agencies.

**RC-5-b.** Identify public lands on the perimeter and within the Special Recreation Management Area that are appropriate for recreational uses in support of local government land use plans.

**RC-5-c.** Prohibit recreational and target shooting on public lands within the Special Recreation Management Area, in accordance with the Clark County and local government shooting ordinances. Prohibit camping on public lands in the Special Recreation Management Area, except where specifically authorized and designated.

**RC-5-d.** Close the Special Recreation Management Area to individual, organized, and competitive off-road use and vehicle events including off-road casual use. An exception to this closure is the Nellis Dunes off-road vehicle Area and the "Nevada 400" course route to the north. Nevada 400 course limited to one event per year.

### **Nelson Hills/Eldorado Special Recreation Management Area**

#### Objective

**RC-6.** Manage 72,700 acres for competitive ORV events on BLM-administered lands in the Nelson Hills/Eldorado Valley Special Recreation Management Area, in accordance with the applicable Biological Opinion(s) to protect desert tortoise habitat (see **Map C-9**).

#### Management Direction

**RC-6-a.** Authorize a maximum of nine speed-based events yearly, including five motorcycle/all-terrain vehicle and four buggy events.

**RC-6-b.** All permitted events must take place on existing previously used courses.

**RC-6-c.** Permitted speed-based ORV events are allowed only between November 1 and February 28 within the parts of the Special Recreation Management Area that are critical tortoise habitat.

### **Jean/Roach Dry Lakes Special Recreation Management Area**

#### Objective

**RC-7.** Manage 207,900 acres in the Jean/Roach Dry Lakes area (**Map C-10**) for intensive recreation opportunities, including competitive ORV (in accordance with the U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service Biological Opinion) and other recreational events, as well as dispersed recreational use and commercial activities. Minimize impacts to white-margined penstemon populations in accordance with policies regarding BLM sensitive species (see **Map C-9**).

Management Direction

**RC-7-a.** Permit high-speed, competitive ORV events, casual ORV uses, and other recreational and commercial activities.

**RC-7-b.** Permitted events will be allowed only on previously disturbed areas in tortoise habitat, existing roads, trails, and dry washes.

**RC-7-c.** Non-vegetated parts of the dry lake beds will be managed as Open to unrestricted OHV use.

**Laughlin Special Recreation Management Area**

Objective

**RC-8.** Provide a higher level of management emphasis through increased use monitoring, ranger patrols, increased BLM presence at permitted events, and increased coordination with local government and businesses for recreational uses on **21,300** acres of public lands around Laughlin, Nevada (see **Map C-9**).

Management Direction

**RC-8-a.** Work closely with the Nevada Division of Wildlife to protect habitat areas and riparian resources of concern.

**RC-8-b.** Until completion of the Recreation Area Management Plan, allow up to two ORV events, with the following terms:

- Limit to 200 participants.
- Closed from May 1 to the Saturday following opening of upland game bird season (usually the second Saturday in October).

The seasonal restrictions and the number of events and participants may be modified as a result of the Recreation Area Management Plan process.

**Big Dune Special Recreation Management Area**

Objective

**RC-9.** Manage **11,500** acres of the Big Dune area for moderate, casual ORV use, camping, and other casual recreation opportunities (see **Map C-9**).

Management Direction

**RC-9-a.** Prohibit all OHV use within the **approximately** 200-acre beetle habitat in the Big Dune ACEC (except on the designated route through the area), to ensure continued survival of the native beetle population. Prohibit speed-based competitive ORV events within the 1,920-acre Big Dune ACEC.

**RC-9-b.** Allow commercial activities and other permitted events on a case-by-case basis.

**RC-9-c.** Establish long-term management goals and objectives including consideration of group camping areas. Long-term recreation management within the dunes would be based on the beetles' minimum habitat requirements.



## **Southern Nevada Extensive Recreation Management Area**

### Objective

**RC-10.** Manage public lands not included within Special Recreation Management Areas as the Southern Nevada Extensive Recreation Management Area, emphasizing dispersed and diverse recreation opportunities (see **Map C-9**).

### Management Direction

**RC-10-a.** Manage permitted recreation and commercial events (outside Special Recreation Management Areas) as follows:

#### ACECs

Prohibit the following activities: ORV speed events, 4-wheel drive hill climbs, mini-events, publicity rides, and high speed testing.

Limit non-speed and non-ORV events to designated roads and trails in tortoise ACECs; and to existing roads and trails in ACECs designated for other purposes.

Allow other recreation and/or commercial events on a case-by-case basis. Seasonal restrictions may be imposed, based on tortoise activity.

#### Other Areas

Permit events on a case-by-case basis. Restrictions and stipulations necessary for protection of the desert tortoise may be imposed within desert tortoise habitat. Close land disposal areas to overnight camping.

**RC-10-b.** Allow recreation concession leases that enhance resource management objectives.

**RC-10-c.** As resource conditions and/or use levels warrant, inventory, designate, and manage mountain bicycle and equestrian trails throughout the Extensive Recreation Management Area to meet increasing public demand for these activities.

## **Off Highway/Road Vehicle Designations**

### Objective

**RC-11.** Provide opportunities for ORV use while protecting wildlife habitat, cultural resources, hydrological and soil resources, nonmotorized recreation opportunities, natural/aesthetic values, and other uses of the public land (see **Map C-10**).

### Management Direction

**RC-11-a.** Designate the following areas (see **Map C-10**) as OPEN to all motorized and mechanized vehicles:

- Nellis Dunes Special Recreation Management Area (**approximately 9,400** acres).
- Non-vegetated portions of Big Dune Special Recreation Management Area outside of designated beetle habitat.
- Non-vegetated portions of dry lake beds (**approximately 3,000** acres).

**RC-11-b.** Designate the following areas (see **Map C-10**) as CLOSED to all motorized and mechanized vehicles:

- Hidden Valley (**3,357** acres) in the south Muddy Mountains.

- Approximately 200 acres of beetle habitat at Big Dune Special Recreation Management Area.

The Mojave Road is closed to competitive events along or within the road alignment; however, a race course may cross the road alignment. Except for the Hidden Valley area, lands in WSAs are not included in this designation. This designation would apply to any areas designated by Congress as wilderness in the future (see **Map C-10**).

**RC-11-c.** Designate the following areas (see **Map C-10**) as LIMITED TO DESIGNATED ROADS AND TRAILS for all motorized and mechanized vehicles:

- Approximately 743,209 acres of desert tortoise ACECs, including the Piute/Eldorado, Mormon Mesa, Coyote Springs, and Gold Butte.
- Approximately 327,000 acres adjacent to the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area and the United States Forest Service Spring Mountain National Recreation Area (between State Highway 160 and U.S. Highway 95).
- Rainbow Gardens ACEC (37,620 acres).
- BLM inholdings totaling approximately 9,423 acres in Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge.
- All land disposal areas.

**RC-11-d.** Designate approximately 2,186,483 acres as shown on **Map C-10** as LIMITED TO EXISTING ROADS, TRAILS AND DRY WASHES for all motorized and mechanized vehicles.

This designation includes:

- All ACECs designated for purposes other than tortoise habitat protection and all lands not otherwise designated in RC-11-a, b, or c.
- All WSAs (or portions) not included in RC-11-c.

*Wilderness Study Areas are further limited to "existing trails and ways."* This distinction is made because WSAs are by definition (and inventory) "roadless." However, some WSAs have 4-wheel drive jeep trails known as trails or ways that remain open to limited use. WSA OHV designations are interim, contingent on Congress making a final decision as to their designation as wilderness.

**RC-11-e.** Management of Speed-Based Recreation Events (see Appendix J of the **1998 Proposed RMP/Final EIS**).

Within tortoise ACECs - Prohibit ORV speed events, mountain bike races, horse endurance rides, 4-wheel drive hill climbs, mini-events, publicity rides, high-speed testing, and similar speed-based events.

Within other ACECs - Prohibit ORV speed events, 4-wheel drive hill climbs, mini-events, publicity rides and high-speed testing. Mountain bike events and horse endurance rides may be allowed on a case-by-case basis and limited to existing roads and trails.

Within non-ACEC Critical Habitat - Nine speed-based events can be allowed yearly in the Nelson Hills/Eldorado Valley on existing roads and trails; with racing allowed between November 1 and February 28, and the number of laps limited to a maximum of five. Additional

specifics may be included in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinion. If the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service changes critical habitat following the designation of tortoise ACECs, the OHV designations and ORV restrictions will be reviewed and modified if appropriate.

Nellis Dunes and dry lakes - Allow ORV and other speed events subject to environmental protection and public safety stipulations.

Other Areas - Permit events on a case-by-case basis. No seasonal restrictions. No new courses in critical desert tortoise habitat. No new ORV events in crucial bighorn sheep habitat.

**RC-11-f. Management of Non-Speed Based Recreation Events** (including non-speed portions of speed events; see Appendix J of the 1998 Proposed RMP/Final EIS and **Map C-10**).

Within desert tortoise ACECs - Allow non-speed events subject to the following limitations:

1. Issue Recreation Use Permits for events with more than 25 vehicles.
2. Events involving more than 100 vehicles must be held during the tortoise inactive season from November 1 to February 28/29. To maintain consistency with California vehicle limit restrictions, there will be a cap of no more than 300 motorcycles or 300 four-wheeled vehicles (including all-terrain vehicles) on all events. With the exception that if an alternative route for the Barstow-to-Vegas event is not found, resulting in the need to traverse the Piute ACEC, the number of entrants permitted in Nevada will be consistent with that permitted by California.
3. No OHV non-speed events will be permitted between April 1 and June 1 and between August 15 and October 15 (Dates will vary slightly annually due to calendar shifts to provide a full Saturday and Sunday weekend if April 1st falls during the weekend and to provide three full weekends prior to, or including November 1st).
4. A maximum of 10 permitted non-speed events, with a limit of 100 vehicles, will be allowed annually during the tortoise active season (March 1 to October 31, except for dates allowed in #3 above). There will be no more than three events per ACEC, with the exception that an event based on historic use patterns will be allowed from Mesquite through the Mormon Mesa ACEC. This event, which may have 200 entrants, counts as two of the 3 events held annually and is limited to a one-way route (north-south or south-north).
5. A maximum of 12 permitted non-speed events will be allowed annually during the tortoise inactive season (November 1 to February 28/29) with no more than 4 events per ACEC.
6. Vehicles shall not exceed the legal speed limit (posted or unposted) of the roads used during the event. Clark County speed limit for unposted roads is 25 miles per hour. These events include, but are not limited to motorcycle or buggy rallies and mountain bike rides.
7. Authorized non-speed events that cross the Lincoln/Clark County borders will only be allowed in accordance with corridors identified within the approved Caliente Management Framework Plan Amendment.

Within other ACECs - Non-speed uses such as non-speed ORV events (road rallies, dual sport rides, and non-speed transfer sections of speed events), mountain bike events, and horse trail rides are allowed on existing roads, trails, and dry washes (RC-11-d).

Within non-ACEC Critical Habitat - Non-speed uses such as non-speed ORV events (road rallies, dual sport rides, and non-speed transfer sections of speed events), guided commercial scenic tours, and mountain bike tours are allowed on existing roads and trails. If the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service changes critical habitat following the designation of tortoise ACECs, OHV designations will be reviewed and modified if appropriate.

Nellis Dunes and Dry Lake Beds - Allow ORV and other events subject to environmental protection and public safety stipulations.

Other Areas - Permit events on a case-by-case basis. No seasonal restrictions. No new courses in critical desert tortoise habitat.

### **Cave Management**

#### Objective

**RC-12.** Protect significant cave resources including cultural, scientific, biological, geological, hydrological, educational and recreational values; and manage each cave for its primary unique resource opportunity.

#### Management Direction

**RC-12-a.** Determine the primary values of each cave and set long-term management goals and objectives.

**RC-12-b.** Enlist local and national caving organizations to assist in assessment and management of cave resources. Restrict access to cave location data to bona fide scientific studies and experienced cavers.

**RC-12-c.** Manage all cave resources as wild systems, free from commercial or show cave type developments. Special Recreation Permits for commercially guided trips by qualified cave experts may be considered if environmental studies show that cave resources will not be impacted.

**RC-12-d.** Establish a registration system for cave entry, where needed.

**RC-12-e.** Designate all significant cave resources and newly discovered cave resources as ROW avoidance areas.

**RC-12-f.** If necessary, implement closures to protect breeding, hibernating, or migrating bats from unnecessary disturbances.

**RC-12-g.** If necessary, gate cave entrances to protect unique and fragile cave resources from damage or overuse.

### **WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS MANAGEMENT**

#### Objective

**SR-I.** Participate in a study of the Virgin River for Wild and Scenic River designation when proposal is initiated by either Arizona or Utah.

#### Management Direction

**SR-I-a.** Provide interim management protection for the river by including the area in the Virgin River Area of Critical Environmental Concern and requiring any proposed action to consider the potential effect on the river's classification as Wild and Scenic.

## **WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT**

### **Wilderness Study Areas**

#### Objective

**WS-1.** Ensure that characteristics on certain lands that caused them to be inventoried and designated as WSAs are maintained and not diminished or lessened in any way that might constrain or limit Congress' **final** wilderness designation decisions.

#### Management Direction

**WS-1-a.** Manage WSAs in accordance with **current BLM policy**.

**WS-1-b.** WSAs are limited to existing trails and ways. This distinction is made because WSAs are by definition (and inventory) “roadless.” However, some WSAs have 4-wheel drive Jeep trails known as trails or ways that remain open to limited use. OHV designations in WSAs are interim, contingent on Congress making a final decision as to their designation as wilderness.

**WS-1-c.** Manage the following WSAs (see **Map C-11**):

- Million Hills (22,600 acres)
- Virgin Mountains Instant Study Area (5,800 acres)
- Resting Springs (4,400 acres)
- Mount Stirling (5,000 acres)

#### Objective

**WS-2.** Provide management direction for WSAs not designated as wilderness by Congress and released **for other purposes**.

#### Management Direction

**WS-2-a.** Manage released lands to generally maintain the existing aesthetic qualities through multiple-use management of those areas and to provide for semi-primitive recreation opportunities. Adopt limited use OHV, Visual Resource Management, and Recreation Opportunity Spectrum designations consistent with designations already in place on adjacent non-WSA lands.

**WS-2-b.** Manage those lands released by Congress to allow opportunities for mineral exploration and development in accordance with current laws and regulations and consistent with decisions for minerals management on adjacent lands.

### **Wilderness**

#### Objective

**WS-3.** Manage existing and future congressionally designated wilderness areas to preserve the wilderness character of the areas and administer the areas for other purposes.

#### Management Direction

**WS-3-a.** Continue to manage the following wilderness areas (all are in the Las Vegas Field Office) (see **Map C-11**):

- Arrow Canyon Wilderness (27,500 acres)
- Eldorado Wilderness (5,800 acres)
- Ireteba Peaks Wilderness (10,300 acres)

- Jumbo Springs Wilderness (3,300 acres)
- Lime Canyon Wilderness (23,700 acres)
- Meadow Valley Range Wilderness (1,800)
- Mormon Mountains Wilderness (11,200)
- Mt. Charleston Wilderness (2,200 acres)
- Muddy Mountains Wilderness (44,600 acres)
- South McCullough Wilderness (44,000 acres)
- Spirit Mountain Wilderness (600 acres)
- Wee Thump Joshua Tree Wilderness (6,500 acres)

### **MINERALS MANAGEMENT**

See **Map C-5** (Land Disposals) and **Map C-2** (ACECs) for the locations of the mineral management areas described below.

#### Objective

**MN-1.** Where lands remain open to entry provide for orderly exploration and development of valuable minerals on federally owned mineral estate whether or not the surface estate is in federal ownership.

**MN-2.** Use appropriate environmental safeguards to allow for the preservation and enhancement of fragile and unique resources.

#### Management Direction

##### Solid Leasable Minerals

**MN-1-a.** On split estate lands, private surface that is developed for non-mineral use will not be managed for solid mineral development.

**MN-1-b.** Allow solid mineral leasing on 1,872,673 acres, which are on lands outside identified disposal and administrative areas, outside riparian and natural spring areas, and outside ACECs, subject to standard lease terms and conditions (see Appendix M of the 1998 Proposed RMP/Final EIS). Proposed ACECs, Disposal Areas, and Locations and Areas Closed to Authorization/Renewal of Material Site ROWs and to Mineral Materials Disposal and Locatable Minerals and Solid Leasables are listed in **Table A-2** through **Table A-6**, **Table A-11**, and **Table A-12**. See **Map C-5** and **Map C-2**.

**MN-1-c.** After June 1, 1999, do not renew sand and gravel solid mineral leases that lie within lands identified for disposal (**Map C-5**). Except as otherwise provided, continued sand and gravel extraction would be considered under 43 CFR 3600, subject to authorized officer approval. No sales under the 3600 regulations would be made until the leases expire.

**MN-1-d.** Solid mineral leasing will be allowed on lands released from Wilderness review that are not within ACECs. and not within areas described in MN-1-a, MN-1-b, MN-1-c, above.

Fluid Leasable Minerals

**MN-I-e.** Allow fluid mineral leasing subject to standard terms and conditions on 1,909,351 acres, which are outside identified disposal and administrative areas and outside ACECs. (See Appendix M of the 1998 Proposed RMP/Final EIS and **Map C-5** and **Map C-2**.)

**MN-I-f.** Allow fluid mineral leasing on lands released from wilderness review, subject to the management direction in MN-I-e, MN-I-g, and MN-I-n. The total acreage released will not be known until Congress acts.

**MN-I-g.** Allow fluid mineral leasing, subject to No Surface Occupancy stipulations within areas having important cultural, geological, and riparian resources; special status species plant and animal habitat; ACECs; administrative sites; and Special Recreation Management Areas. The ACECs subject to this No Surface Occupancy provision total approximately **868,101** acres (see list of these ACECs and acreages of each below). For ACECs, the acreage *excludes* BOR withdrawals.

<u>ACEC</u>	<u>Acreage<sup>19</sup></u>
Piute/Eldorado Valley	329,440
Coyote Springs Valley	75,500
Mormon Mesa	151,360
Gold Butte, Part A (including Whitney Pockets, Devil's Throat, Red Rock Springs ACEC, <b>BOR lands</b> .) <sup>20</sup>	185,469
Arden Historic Sites	1,480
Arrow Canyon	2,084
Ash Meadows (outside Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge)	<b>27,554</b>
Big Dune	1,920
Crescent Townsite	437
Hidden Valley	3,360
Keyhole Canyon	361
Rainbow Gardens <sup>21</sup>	37,620
River Mountains <sup>22</sup>	5,617
Stump Spring	641
Virgin River	6,411
Desert Tortoise Conservation Center Management Area (excluding 475-acre overlap with Arden Historic Sites)	11,014
Nellis Dunes Recreation Area	<b>9,400</b>
Public Domain Lands within Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge	9,423

<sup>19</sup> Reported acres are based on current management; they may not reflect specific allocations from the Gold Butte National Monument Proclamation.

<sup>20</sup> ACEC acreage excludes Reclamation withdrawals.

<sup>21</sup> ACEC acreage excludes Reclamation withdrawals.

<sup>22</sup> ACEC acreage excludes Reclamation withdrawals.

Muddy River Riparian Zone	205
Virgin River Riparian Zone	805
<u>Within 0.25 miles of natural springs</u>	<u>8,000<sup>23</sup></u>
<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>868,101</b>

**MN-I-h.** Close the Ash Meadows ACEC, including BLM lands inside the Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge to geothermal prospecting and leasing.

**MN-I-i.** Allow fluid mineral leasing (subject to Timing and Surface Use Constraint special stipulations) on the ACECs listed below totaling approximately 111,799 acres. These ACECs have special wildlife habitat, riparian, cultural, and geologic values.

<u>ACEC</u>	<u>Acres<sup>24</sup></u>
Amargosa Mesquite	6,891
Gold Butte, Part B, outside of WSAs	66,477
<u>Gold Butte, Part C (Virgin Mountains)</u>	<u>38,431</u>
<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>111,799</b>

Geothermal Minerals

Objective<sup>25</sup>

The BLM’s 2008 Geothermal Leasing PEIS ROD<sup>26</sup> amends the Las Vegas RMP by designating the following acres open and closed to geothermal leasing:

- Acres open: 3,426,674
- Acres closed: 709,582

The amendment does the following:

- Identifies public lands that are administratively and legally closed or open to leasing, and under what conditions
- Develops a comprehensive list of stipulations, best management practices, and procedures to serve as consistent guidance for future geothermal leasing and development on public and U.S. Forest Service lands
- Provides a reasonably foreseeable development scenario for geothermal development on federal lands

Locatable Minerals

**MN-I-j.** An estimated 2,135,146 acres would remain open to the operation of the mining laws after existing withdrawals for military uses, industrial sites, and powersites (see **Map C-2**).

**MN-2-a.** Withdraw the following urban disposal areas, BLM-administrative areas, special plant and animal management areas, sensitive cultural resource sites, and special geologic areas from

<sup>23</sup> See Table 3-3 of the 1998 Proposed RMP/Final EIS

<sup>24</sup> Reported acres are based on current management; they may not reflect specific allocations from the Gold Butte National Monument Proclamation.

<sup>25</sup> Actions are from decisions in the BLM’s 2008 Geothermal Leasing Programmatic EIS Record of Decision.

<sup>26</sup> BLM. 2008. Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan Amendments for Geothermal Leasing in the Western United States, BLM-WO-GI-09-003-1800. BLM, Washington, DC.



the operation of the mining laws, subject to valid existing rights. Within desert tortoise ACECs, conduct validity determinations of mining claims prior to approval of a mine plan on pre-existing mining claims.

Areas to be Segregated and Withdrawn:

Urban Disposal and BLM

<u>Administrative Area</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Apex	4,651
Amargosa Valley	27,637
Glendale	11,865
Goodsprings	951
Indian Springs	384
Indian Springs Prison	1,301
Ivanpah Airport Environs Overlay District	14,454
Lathrop Wells	5,621
Las Vegas Metro	<1
Laughlin	3,542
Mesquite/Bunkerville	5,898
Moapa	16,824
Moapa Valley	11,275
Nelson	799
Pahrump	8,458
Sandy Valley	3,976
Searchlight	2,034
SNPLMA	32,201
Spring Mountain Raceway LLC	1,249
Sunrise Landfill	798
Valley West	967
Desert Tortoise Conservation Center Management Area (excludes the 495-acre overlap with Arden Historic Sites)	11,014
<u>Desert Tortoise Habitat Areas, Cultural Resource, and Special Geologic Areas</u>	<u>Acres<sup>27</sup></u>
Piute/Eldorado Valley ACEC	329,440
Coyote Springs Valley ACEC	75,500
Mormon Mesa ACEC	151,360
Gold Butte ACEC, Part A (including Devil's Throat, Red Rock Springs, and Whitney Pockets ACECs, and BOR lands)	185,469
Amargosa Mesquite ACEC	6,891
Arden Historic Sites ACEC	1,480

<sup>27</sup> Reported acres are based on current management; they may not reflect specific allocations from the Gold Butte National Monument Proclamation.

Arrow Canyon ACEC	2,804	
Big Dune ACEC	1,920	
Ash Meadows ACEC (outside refuge)	27,554	
Crescent Mining Town ACEC	437	
Devil's Throat ACEC <sup>28</sup>		
Gold Butte, Part B (includes Gold Butte Townsite ACEC)	118,536	
Hidden Valley ACEC	3,360	
Keyhole Canyon ACEC	361	
Rainbow Gardens ACEC	37,620	
Red Rock Springs ACEC <sup>29</sup>		
River Mountains ACEC	11,095	
Stump Springs ACEC	641	
Whitney Pockets ACEC <sup>30</sup>		
Gold Butte ACEC, Part C (Virgin Mtns)		38,341
Virgin River ACEC	6,411	
<u>Special Recreation Management Areas</u>	<u>Acres</u>	
Nellis Dunes	9,400	
<u>Riparian Zones</u>	<u>Acres</u>	
Muddy River riparian zone	205	
Virgin River riparian zone	805	
Within 0.25 miles of natural springs	8,000 <sup>31</sup>	
Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge (BLM-administered lands)	9,423	
ACEC and Special Recreation Management Areas (see <b>Map C-2</b> and <b>Map C-9</b> )		
<u>Salable Minerals</u>		

**MN-I-k.** Allow salable mineral disposal outside the areas listed in **Table A-12**, and outside ACECs (see **Table A-2** through **Table A-6**). Two exceptions are described below, one for highway maintenance use in desert tortoise management ACECs, and another for existing Clark County Free-Use and Government Wash Community Pit on the east edge of the Rainbow Gardens ACEC. (Note: Legal descriptions are in Appendix M of the **1998 Proposed RMP/Final EIS**.)

I) Gold Butte A, Coyote Springs, Mormon Mesa and Piute/Eldorado desert tortoise ACECs remain open to issuance of free-use permits only within 0.50 miles to either side of the State highways and County Roads identified on Maps 2-12 and 2-13 of the **1998 Proposed RMP/Final EIS**. These authorizations would only be issued to governmental entities. Grant permits only for a limited period of time. For expansions of existing pits exceeding a cumulative total of 1,000 acres of new disturbance, the applicant would be responsible for U.S. Fish and Wildlife consultation addressing possible impacts to the Desert Tortoise.

<sup>28</sup> Acreage included as part of Gold Butte ACEC, Part A

<sup>29</sup> Acreage included as part of Gold Butte ACEC, Part A

<sup>30</sup> Acreage included as part of Gold Butte ACEC, Part A

<sup>31</sup> See Table 3-3 of the **1998 Proposed RMP/Final EIS**

2) Allow existing free-use and community pit authorizations in Township 20 South, Range 64 East, within the Rainbow Gardens ACEC, to be re-authorized or renewed, but do not allow expansion of the sites.

**Table A-12. Locations and Areas Closed to Authorization/Renewal of Material Site Rights-of-way and to Mineral Material Disposal, Solid Mineral Leasing, and Subject to Segregation and Withdrawal of Locatable Minerals**

<b>Valid Existing Closures</b>	<b>Acres<sup>1</sup></b>
Amargosa Mesquite ACEC	6,891
Arden Historic Sites ACEC	1,595 <sup>2</sup>
Arrow Canyon Paleontological Sites ACEC	2,084
Ash Meadows ACEC	27,554
Big Dune ACEC	1,920
Crescent Mining Townsite ACEC	437
Coyote Springs ACEC	75,500
Devil's Throat ACEC	640 <sup>3</sup>
Gold Butte ACEC, Part A	185,469
Gold Butte ACEC, Part B (including Gold Butte Townsites)	118,937
Gold Butte ACEC, Part C (Virgin Mtns)	38,431
Hidden Valley (Muddy Mountains) Archaeological District ACEC	3,360
Keyhole Canyon Rock Art Site ACEC	361
Mormon Mesa ACEC	151,360
Piute-Eldorado ACEC	329,440
Rainbow Gardens ACEC	37,620
Red Rock Spring Archaeological Site ACEC	640
River Mountains ACEC	5,617
Stump Spring Prehistoric/Historic Site ACEC	641
Virgin River Anasazi Prehistoric District ACEC	6,411
Whitney Pocket Archaeological Complex ACEC	160 <sup>3</sup>
Desert Tortoise Conservation Center	11,489
Nellis Dunes Special Recreation Management Area	9,400
Virgin River riparian zone	805
Muddy River riparian zone	205
Within ¼ mile of natural springs and associated riparian areas	8,000
<b>Total Acres (excluding overlaps and existing BOR withdrawals)</b>	<b>1,024,967</b>

**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> Reported acres are based on current management; they may not reflect specific allocations from the Gold Butte National Monument Proclamation.

<sup>2</sup> Arden Historic Sites ACEC overlaps 475 acres within the Desert Tortoise Conservation Center.

<sup>3</sup> Gold Butte ACEC, Part A overlaps Devil's Throat ACEC, Red Rock Spring ACEC, and Whitney Pockets ACEC.

**MN-I-l.** Mineral material disposal determined to be detrimental to desert tortoise would not be authorized.

**MN-I-m.** Consultation with the affected town board or advisory council would occur prior to approval of salable minerals disposal that could impact an unincorporated town or community.

Mineral Site Rights-of-Way

**MN-I-n.** Allow new material site ROWs designation outside ACECs listed in **Table A-2 through Table A-6 and shown on Map C-2**. An exception is described below for material site ROWs in desert tortoise ACECs.

*Exception:* Gold Butte A, Coyote Springs, Mormon Mesa, and Piute/Eldorado desert tortoise ACECs would remain open to the granting of material site ROWs only within 0.50 miles to either side of those federal aid highways identified on Maps 2-12 and 2-13 of the 1998 Proposed RMP/Final EIS. These authorizations would only be issued to governmental entities. Apply acreage limitations identified under MN-1-k.

## **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT**

### *Objective*

**HZ-1.** Prevent hazardous materials contamination of public lands.

### *Management Direction*

**HZ-1-a.** Minimize releases of hazardous materials through compliance with current regulations. When hazardous materials are released into the environment, assess their impacts on each resource and determine the appropriate response, removal, and remedial actions to take.

### *Objective*

**HZ-2.** Reduce risks associated with hazardous materials on public lands.

### *Management Direction*

**HZ-2-a.** Evaluate all actions (including land use authorizations and disposals, mining and milling activities, and unauthorized land uses) for hazardous materials, waste minimization and pollution prevention.

**HZ-2-b.** Complete site-specific inventories when lands are being disposed or acquired. It is departmental policy to minimize potential liability of the Department and its bureaus by acquiring property that is not contaminated unless directed by Congress, court mandate, or as determined by the Secretary (602 DM 2).

**HZ-2-c.** Inspect mining and milling sites to determine appropriate management for hazardous materials.

## **FIRE MANAGEMENT**

### *Objective*

**FE-1.** Provide fire suppression on approximately 3,332,000 of public acres, based on suppression areas/zones and resource management needs (**Map C-12**).

### *Management Direction*

**FE-1-a.** Provide fire suppression efforts commensurate with resource and adjacent property values at risk.

**FE-1-b.** Prevent human-caused fires through an aggressive education, investigation, and public outreach effort.

**FE-1-c.** Provide for maximum fire protection through a comprehensive fire detection system using a multi-agency approach.

**FE-1-d.** Use approved fire suppression techniques in ACECs where there are concerns for habitat, cultural resources, threatened and endangered species, WSAs, designated natural areas, and urban/rural/wildland interface zones.

**FE-1-e.** For fire suppression, follow specific guidance in the Fire Management Action Plan.

Objective

**FE-2.** Allow prescribed fire for resource enhancement purposes on those areas identified on **Map C-12**.

Management Direction

**FE-2-a.** Determine specific hazard reduction priorities, including any noxious or invasive species infestations, and implement according to the existing budget.

Objective

**FE-3.** Provide fuels reduction management for resource protection on those areas identified on **Map C-12**.

Management Direction

**FE-3-a.** Determine specific prescribed burn priorities annually, including any noxious or invasive species infestations, and implement where possible.

Objective

**FE-4.** Provide fire suppression assistance to other state and federal entities where formal agreements are in place.

Management Direction

**FE-4-a.** Provide, maintain, and/or upgrade fire management cooperative agreements, memoranda of understanding, and reciprocal agreements to provide maximum protection to resources and or adjacent property values.

**Management Areas**

Fire Suppression Areas/Zones

The planning area is subject to suppression for wildland fires in three suppression zones (see **Map C-12**) based on site-specific resource management needs (such as critical desert tortoise habitat, WSAs and ACECs).

Develop specific tactics and initial attack schemes in subsequent activity plans.

Zone 1: General Characteristics

This area does not contain critical desert tortoise habitat. The dominant vegetation throughout most of the zone is perennial. There is high recreation and visitor use, high fuel carryover potential, high urban/wildland interface factor, and a high interagency mutual aid assistance factor. Unique vegetative communities exist throughout the zone. Nonattainment air quality is an issue. A higher percentage of human-caused and or related fires occur in Zone 1 than in other areas.

Zones 2A and 28: General Characteristics

These areas contain critical desert tortoise habitat and bighorn sheep populations. There is a higher percentage of ephemeral/perennial plant communities, which can periodically produce heavy fuel loading of persistent annual species. Areas in these zones are mostly rural/wildland interface where a higher volume of fires are caused by lightning. Historic mining districts are more prevalent. These zones are generally more dry. Interagency mutual aid and assistance is necessary. Nonattainment air quality is an issue to a lesser degree, and unique vegetative communities exist throughout the zones.

#### Fire Use Areas

Prescribed burning for resource enhancement may occur in the Gold Butte Allotment (where important values are wildlife, watershed, wild horses and burros), South McCullough Range (for wildlife), Virgin River Floodplains (where important values are riparian, wildlife, water quality, and recreation), and the Ash Meadows/Amargosa Flat Area.

#### Fire Fuels Management Areas

The fuel hazard reduction for resource/property protection will occur in the Virgin Peak White Fir Stands (ladder fuel reduction), South McCullough Range Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands (shaded fuel break), and the Spring Mountain Woodlands (ladder fuel reduction).

### **NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS (NHTs) MANAGEMENT**

#### Objective

**NHT-I.** Provide opportunities for scientific and educational use of national historic trails.

#### Management Direction

**NHT-I-a.** For those areas within the planning area that contain the Old Spanish NHT but are outside the areas established as the Old Spanish Trail ACEC/NHT Management Corridor segments through this planning effort, the BLM would continue to consider impacts on Old Spanish NHT-related scenic, recreation, and natural resources, qualities, values, and associated settings, and the primary use or uses of the Trail. Avoidance of adverse effects under the National Historic Preservation Act and adverse impacts under the National Trails System Act, as described by BLM Manual 6280, is preferred. If avoidance is not possible, the BLM will implement appropriate measures that will minimize or mitigate the effects and impacts on the Old Spanish NHT to the extent practicable in accordance with BLM policy.

## **APPENDIX B. ERRATA – LAS VEGAS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

1. The Indian Springs South disposal area was changed to Three Lakes Valley disposal area.
2. Page 5-2 identified 36 CFR part 60. It should read 36 CFR part 800.
3. Page 5-5 identified Map numbers as 3-17, 3-18, 3-19. The Map numbers changed to 3-12, 3-13, and 3-14.
4. Appendix G was referenced in Table 2-11. The correct appendix reference is D.
5. Page 3-57 Rights was misspelled (Rghts).
6. Map 2-6 the same pattern was shown for 3 Wilderness Study Areas, U.S. Fish and Wildlife #s 1-3, South McCullough and Arrow Canyon. The Las Vegas Field Office has the corrected map.
7. Table S2-36 identified a 45% decrease in acreage available for fluid mineral leasing. This number is corrected to read 17%.
8. A section on socio-economics was inadvertently omitted from Chapter 4 and is attached to this errata for reference purposes.
9. RP-1 has a minor change in wording as follows: ....condition; achieve an advanced ecological status,....
10. SL-1-b has a minor word change as follows: ....moderate erosion condition "with" instead of "to have."
11. The Herd Management Area Map was corrected by removing State Lands and lands administered by the National Park Service from the boundaries identified on Map 2-1.
12. Indian Springs was listed as Citizens Advisory Council under Nye County whereas they are a Town Advisory Board under Clark County.
13. Page 3-58 is changed to reflect the most up to date information, provided by Nevada Power Company: Nevada Power Company, in cooperation with Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, completed an initial analysis of the Marketplace-Allen 500 kV Transmission project. This project would consist of four 500 kV transmission circuits on two sets of lattice structure, from the Harry Allen substation near Dry Lake to a new substation called Marketplace, near the Eldorado/McCullough substation in Eldorado Valley. While the project is still being contemplated, it will not terminate on the north at the Harry Allen substation but rather five miles north at the newly constructed Crystal substation. The Marketplace substation would be interconnected to the Mead-Phoenix and Mead-Adelanto 500 kV projects and to the existing McCullough substation. The Crystal 500 kV substation would be interconnected with the proposed Southwest Intertie Project and Utah/Nevada 500 kV (second IPP line). The White Pine Power Project (two 500 kV lines) could also participate in the project, as well as other interested companies. This interconnection would replace numerous proposed 500kV lines through the area, thus limiting the proliferation of lines through the Sunrise Mountain Area.

## **SOCIO-ECONOMIC VALUES**

### From Livestock Grazing

The reduction of 7,597 in the number of Animal Unit Months available for grazing from 10,037 to 2,440 represents a decline in capital asset value of \$341,865; and a loss of potential net ranch income estimated at \$36,238.

Because livestock grazing represents a relatively small portion of economic activity in both Clark and Nye Counties, no noticeable adverse economic effects will occur to the county economies as a result of the reduction in livestock grazing activities. There will be no noticeable reverberation throughout the economy, no noticeable multiplier effects upon purchases and sales, or income and employment. Individual operators would have sustained personal losses, however that potential has been significantly ameliorated by the Clark County Desert Conservation Plan.

Of the 13 allotments that have had active use over the past 5 years, 6 were previously purchased by the Clark County Desert Conservation Plan, leaving 7 active allotments. Five of the remaining active allotments which have been proposed for closure under this action have since also been purchased by the Desert Conservation Plan, leaving 2 active allotments and 2 operators remaining in business. One of these operators has had his grazing permit revoked for repeated unauthorized use. The result is that one operator will remain in business, with the balance having received compensation for their grazing operation, and one having lost his grazing permit through willful violations. In all cases where compensation was received, the compensation has been adequate to replace the loss of income stream, but the abandonment of the lifestyle of cattle-ranching, which for many operators is their preferred way of life, cannot be compensated for. Some of the operators will take up livestock grazing in other areas, in order to continue their lifestyle.

### From Minerals Management

No actual loss of income or employment from existing operations is expected to occur as a result of this Plan. However, the various stipulations, restrictions, and constraints will have a discouraging effect on mineral exploration and development throughout much of the RMP area.

Section 7 consultation and mitigation fees will add costs to all mineral operations proposed within any of the Desert Tortoise Habitat areas. Cost increases may range from an additional 10 to 20 percent for environmental permitting and bonding. In areas where closure to mineral entry is required, any potential mineral development and production, with its attendant income and employment would be foregone throughout the period of closure.

Leasing stipulations would add additional costs upon oil and gas or geothermal exploration and development due to the constraints such restrictions impose on scheduling and operating efficiency.

Mineral materials development will be necessitated by continued growth in the Las Vegas Valley. The cost of hauling mineral materials could be substantially increased, depending upon location and proximity to access and use. Transportation costs increase by about 25 percent for each doubling of the haul distance (Mine Cost Service, 1998). Transportation costs range from 45 to 70 cents per ton mile. However, increases in demand for sand and gravel, and the additional haul distances that might be required would provide upward pressure on prices, with the total increase in cost, then, to be borne by the final consumer.



From Lands Management

Restrictions imposed on land disposal actions and ROWs could have adverse economic impacts on private individuals and public entities that wish to propose or apply for transfer of these lands for suitable purposes. Increased costs would occur for all lands actions subject to Section 7 consultation and mitigation.

Payments in Lieu of Taxes will not be affected by any of the proposals in this RMP. Restrictions on land transfers could, however, reduce some potential future expansion of the tax base.

From Rights-of-Way Management

The establishment of designated corridors enables more efficient planning of future energy, communication and transportation facilities. A lack of such designated corridors, or the avoidance of existing corridors, engenders higher planning costs to utility companies and results in longer processing time for rights-of-way applications.

Section 7 consultation and mitigation fees could make permitting and construction of ROWs more expensive than in those areas where it is not required. Companies will take such costs under consideration in their analyses. Often, such costs are not of sufficient magnitude to discourage development of the most efficient and effective route. Cost-benefit analyses will be brought to bear by the proponents of any proposed route.

From Recreation Management

No reduction in recreation visitor days, or the associated recreation-related expenditures is expected to occur. Indeed, the growing population in Clark County will have the effect of increasing visitor days and associated expenditures. Limitations and restrictions on casual OHV use would not preclude such recreation, but will encourage the displacement of such recreation to those areas where fewer limitations might apply.

While Off-road Vehicle speed competitive events will be eliminated in some areas, such events will be accommodated by displacement to other areas. Non-speed organized events will be enhanced by management proposals.

Some beneficial wildlife population adjustments may be expected as a result of improvements in habitat condition and changes in the amount of vegetation available to wildlife. Increases in wildlife populations will influence the number of hunter days, thereby affecting moderate increases in expenditures, income and employment.

While all public land recreation activities do contribute to the local economy, the associated expenditures represent less than 5 percent of any sector of the regional economy's income and employment. Any potential gains or losses would not be of sufficient magnitude to have any noticeable impact.

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## **APPENDIX C. MAPS**

### **Map List:**

Map C-1: Visual Resource Management

Map C-2: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Map C-3: Grazing Allotments

Map C-4: Wild Horse and Burros

Map C-5: Land Disposals

Map C-6: Solar Energy

Map C-7: Wind Energy

Map C-8: Utility Corridors

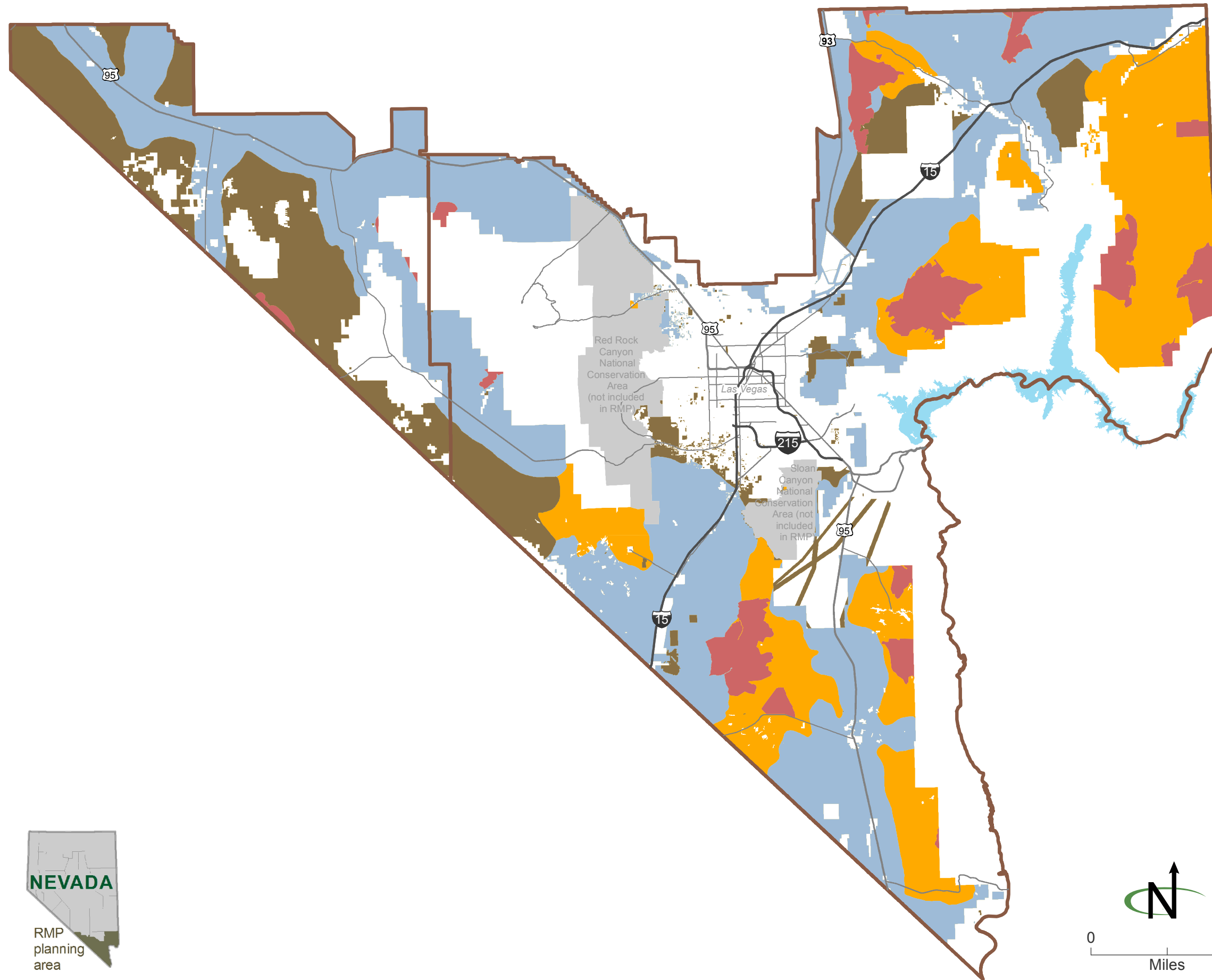
Map C-9: Recreation Management Areas

Map C-10: OHV Use Designations

Map C-11: Wilderness/Wilderness Study Areas/Instant Study Areas






Map C-12: Fire Management

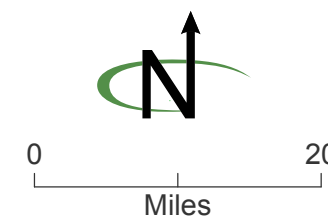
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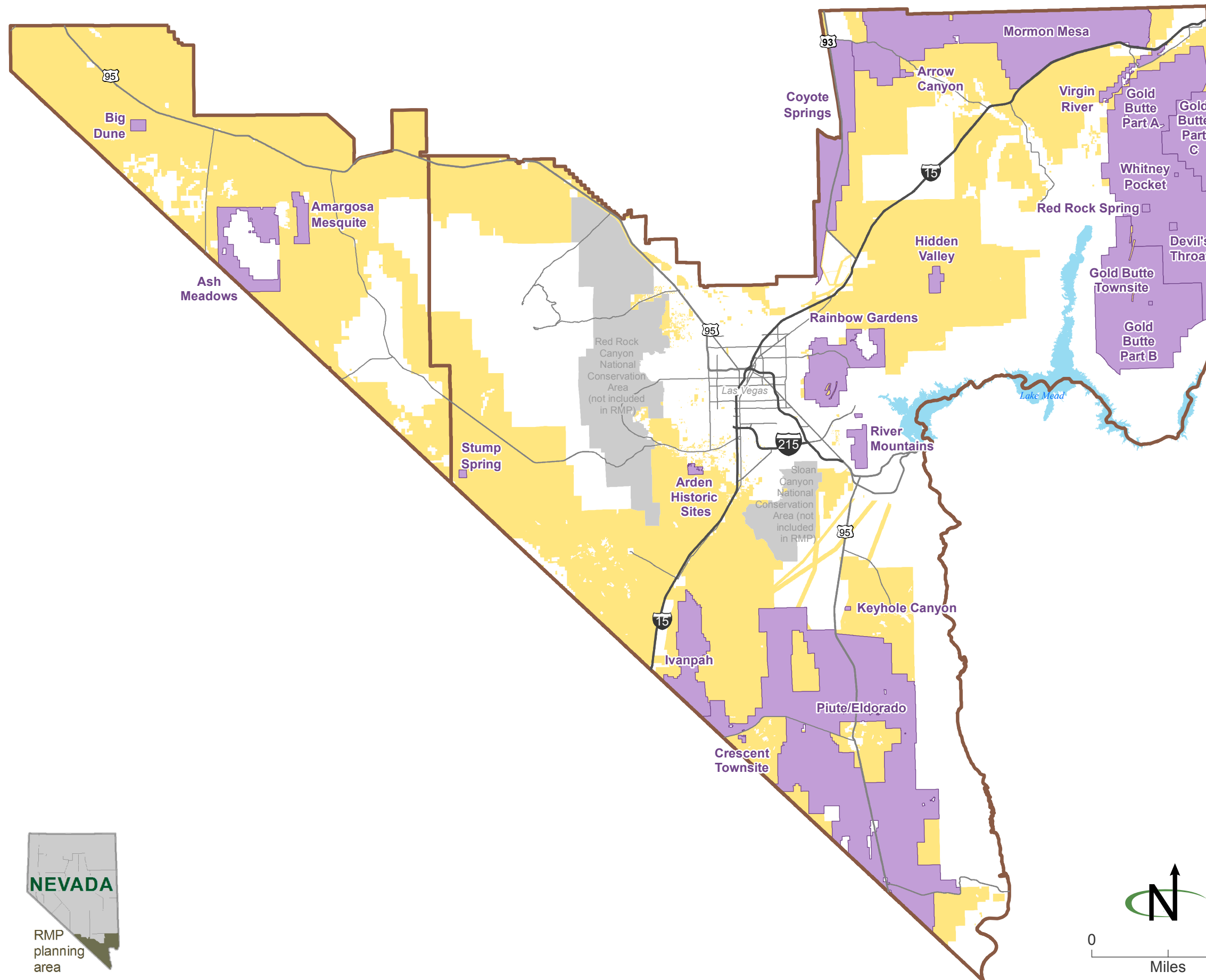
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Pahrump Field Office  
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**Visual Resource Management**

-  VRM Class I
-  VRM Class II
-  VRM Class III
-  VRM Class IV
-  SNDO RMP Planning Area






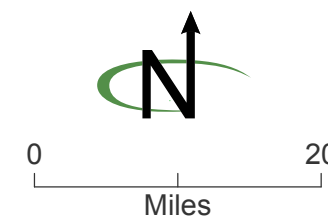
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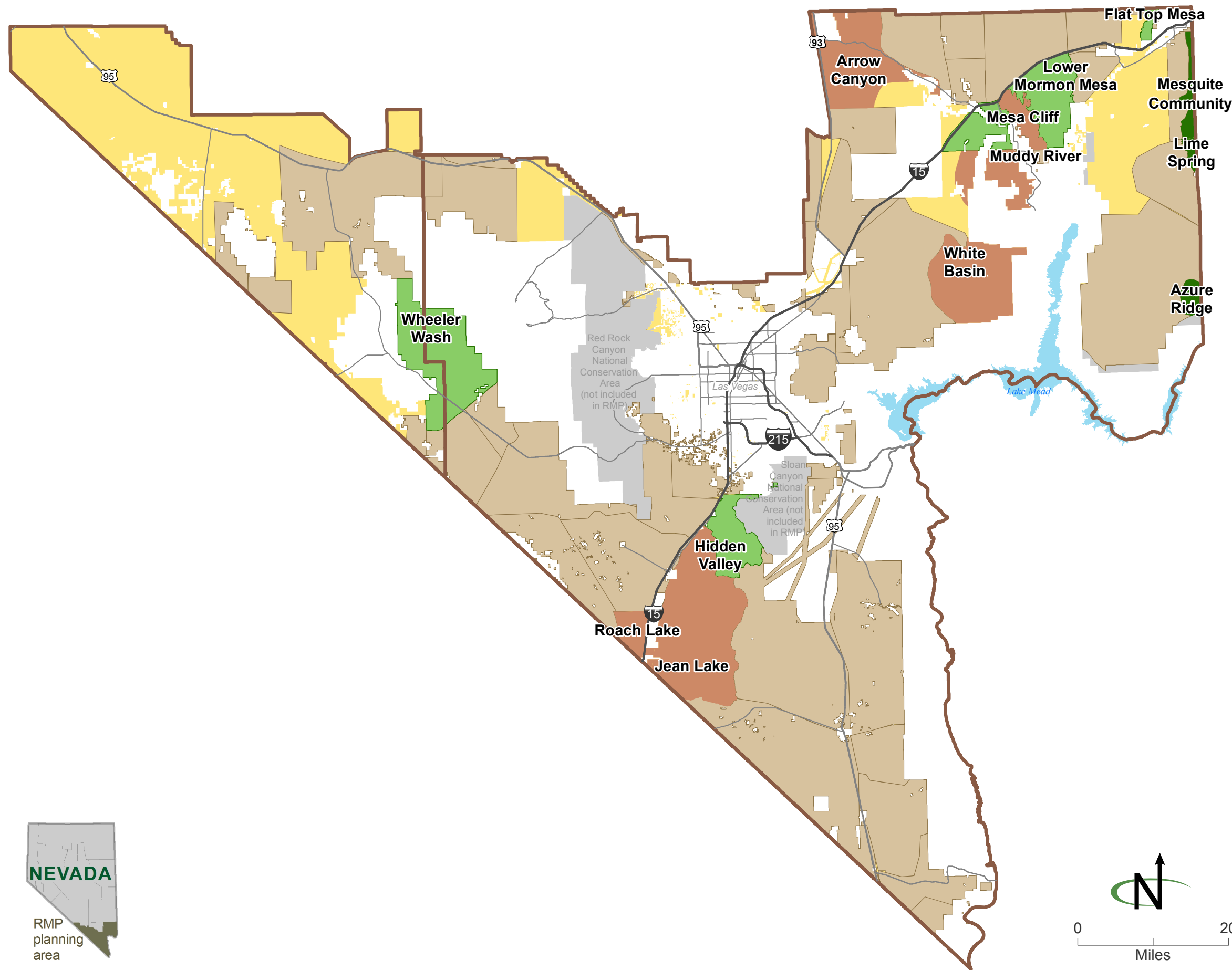
**Southern Nevada District  
Las Vegas Field Office  
Pahrump Field Office  
Updated Record of Decision**

**Areas of Critical Environmental Concern**

-  Area of critical environmental concern (ACEC)
-  Bureau of Land Management
-  SNDO RMP Planning Area



Source: BLM GIS 2018  
Print date: July 25, 2019  
SNDO\_RMP\_ROD\_alts\_ACEC\_Alternative01.pdf  
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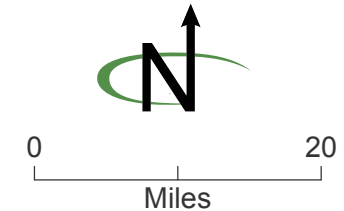


**Southern Nevada District  
Las Vegas Field Office  
Pahrump Field Office  
Updated Record of Decision**

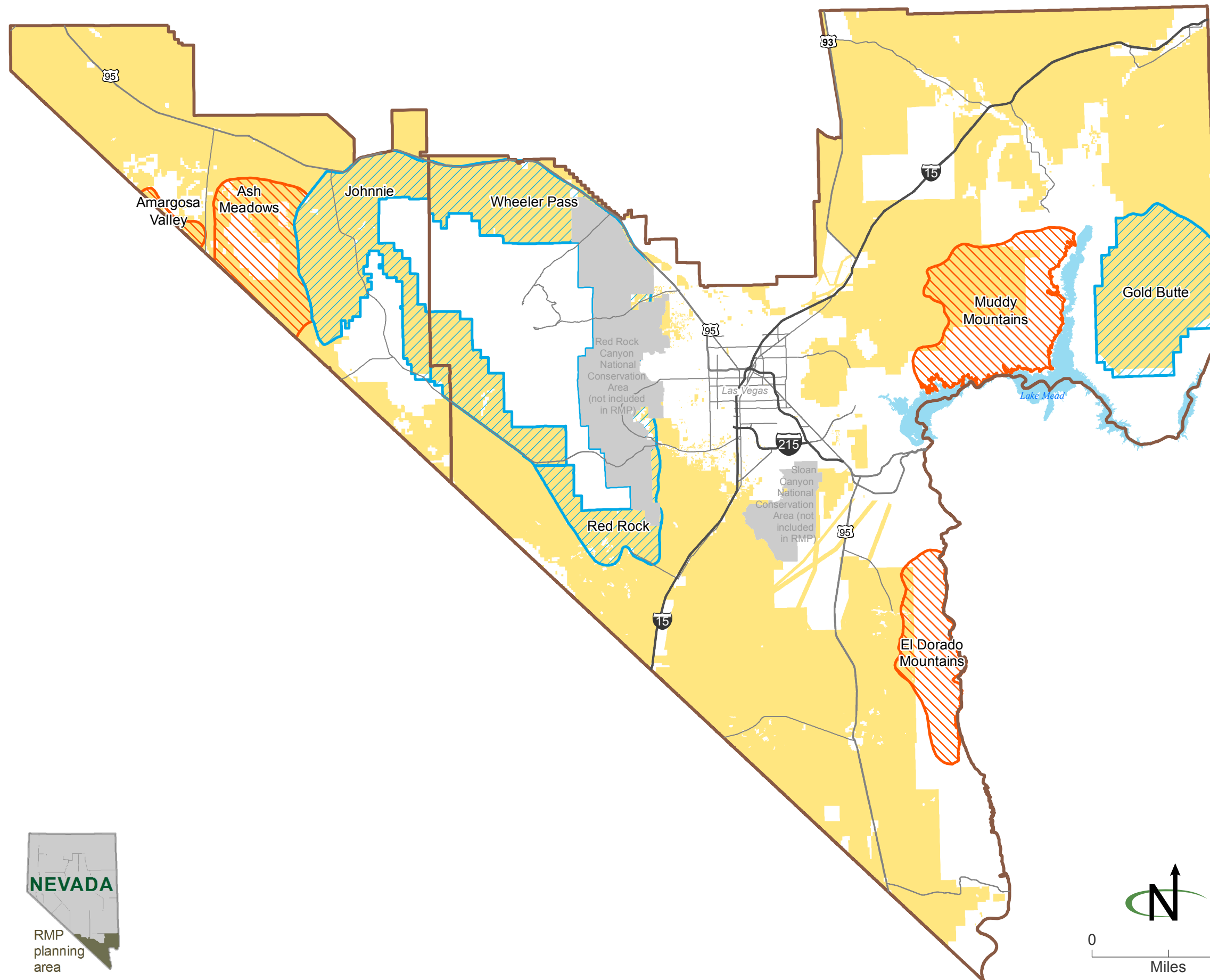
**Grazing Allotments**

- Allotment available to livestock grazing
- Allotment available to livestock grazing, Arizona-administered allotment
- Allotment permanently closed to livestock grazing
- Allotment unavailable to livestock grazing under LG-1-i of the 1998 LVRMP\*
- Unallotted area permanently closed to livestock grazing
- SNDO RMP Planning Area

\*Between 2000 and 2006, The Conservation Fund and The Nature Conservancy, on behalf of Clark County, Nevada, negotiated with willing permittees who held the preferences for the Arrow Canyon, Arrow Canyon in Battleship Wash, Jean Lake, Mesa Cliff, Roach lake, and White Basin allotments to purchase and relinquish their preferences for these allotments back to the BLM, to make these allotments unavailable to grazing under LG-1-i of the 1998 Las Vegas Resource Management Plan. The BLM manages these allotments as unavailable to grazing.







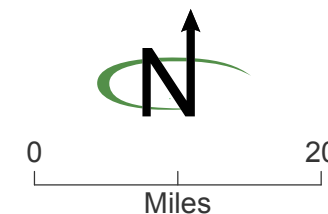
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**Southern Nevada District  
Las Vegas Field Office  
Pahrump Field Office  
Updated Record of Decision**

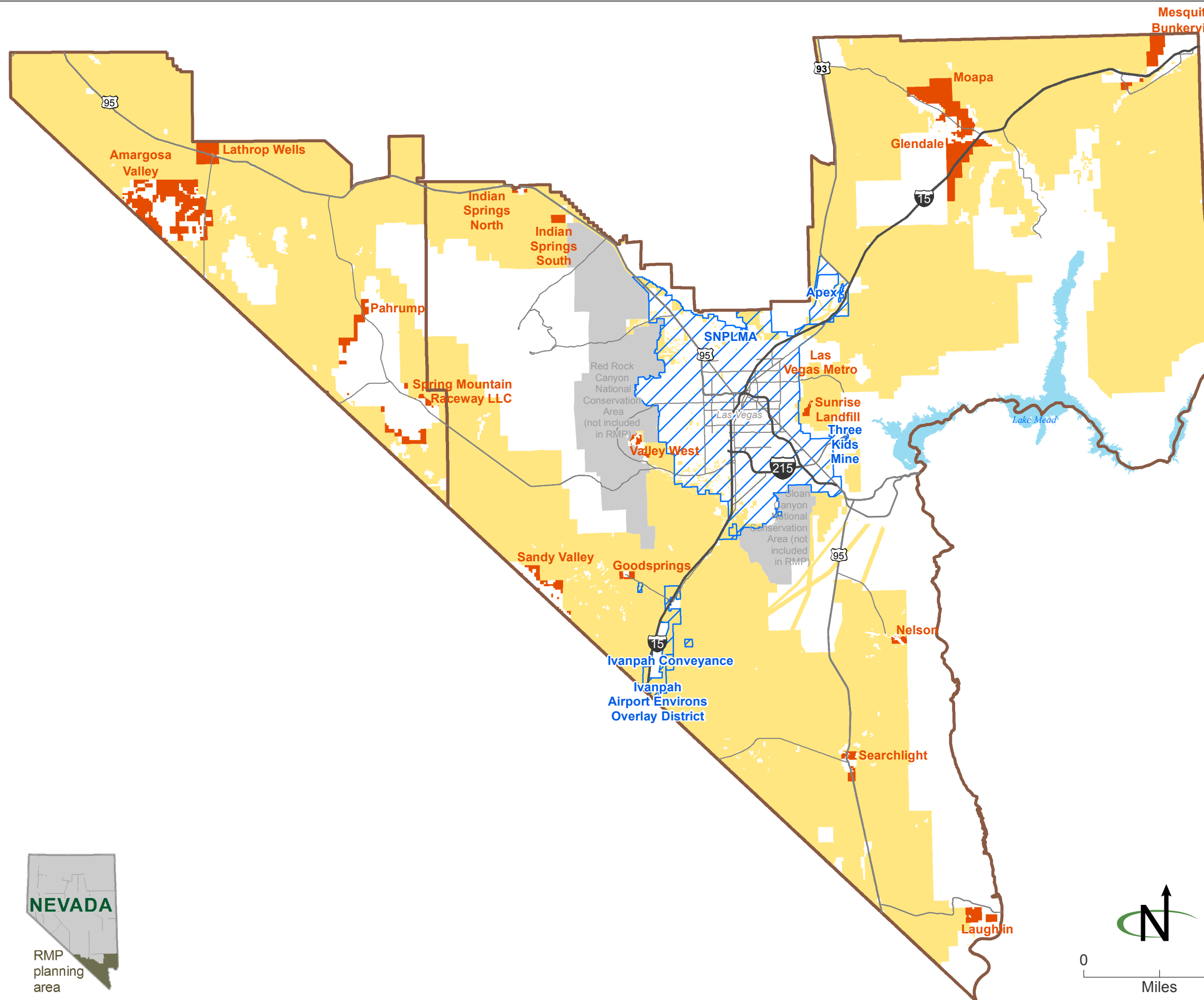
**Wild Horse and Burros**

-  Herd Area
-  Herd Management Area
-  Bureau of Land Management
-  SNDO RMP Planning Area







Source: BLM GIS 2018  
 Print date: July 25, 2019  
 SNDO\_RMP\_ROD\_alts\_WHB.pdf  
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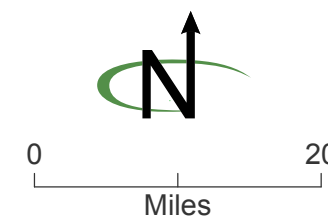




**Southern Nevada District  
Las Vegas Field Office  
Pahrump Field Office  
Updated Record of Decision**

**Land Disposals**

-  Available for disposal
-  Available for disposal through congressional designation
-  Bureau of Land Management
-  SNDO RMP Planning Area

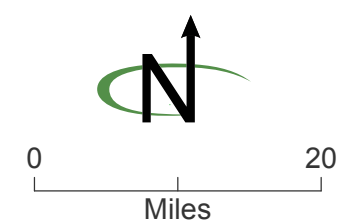
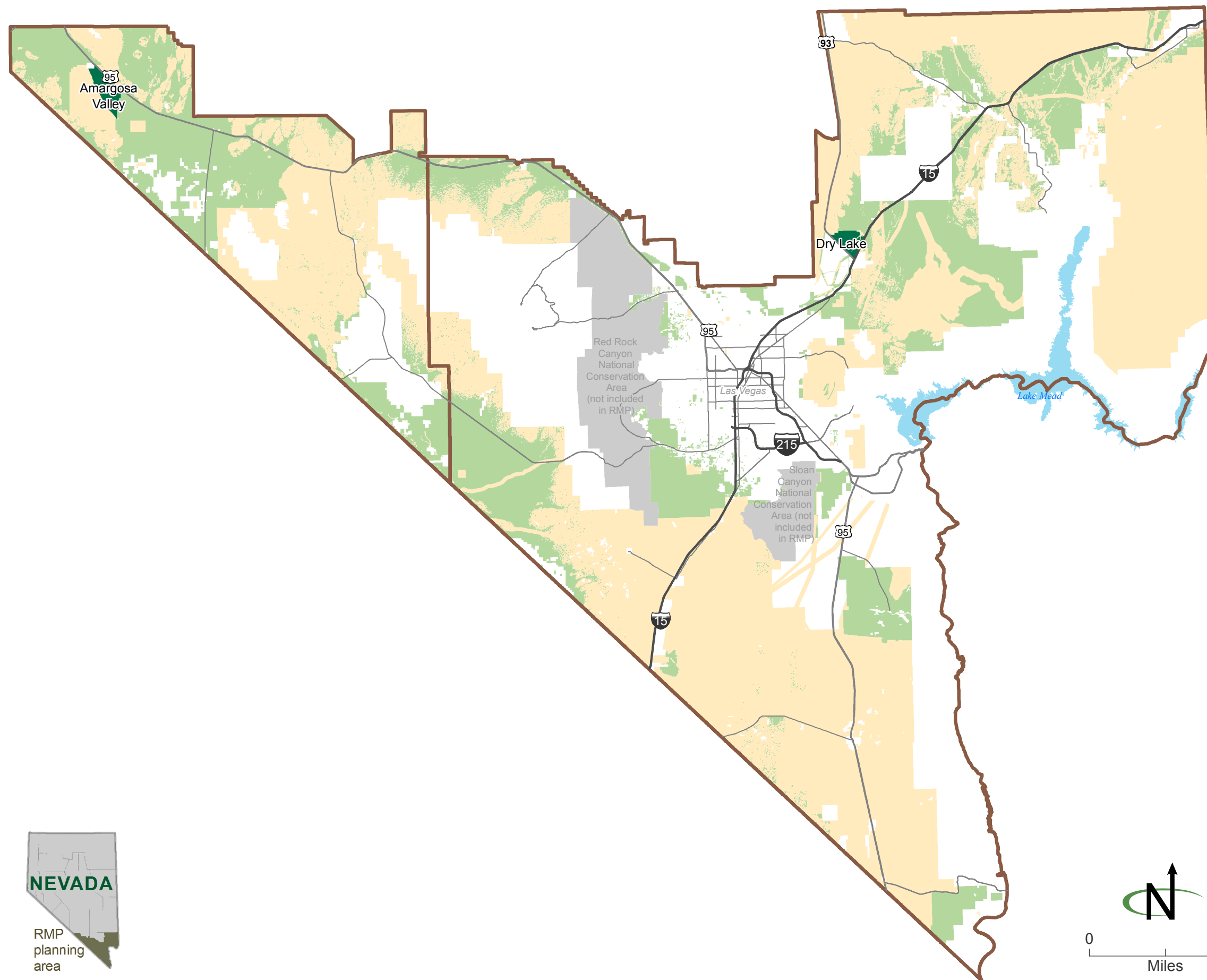


Source: BLM GIS 2018  
Print date: July 25, 2019  
SNDO\_RMP\_ROD\_alts\_LR\_Disposal\_Alternative01.pdf  
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### Southern Nevada District Las Vegas Field Office Pahrump Field Office Updated Record of Decision

#### Solar Energy





- Designated leasing area
- Solar variance
- Solar exclusion
- SNDO RMP Planning Area

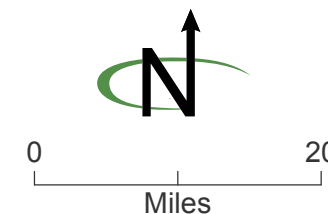
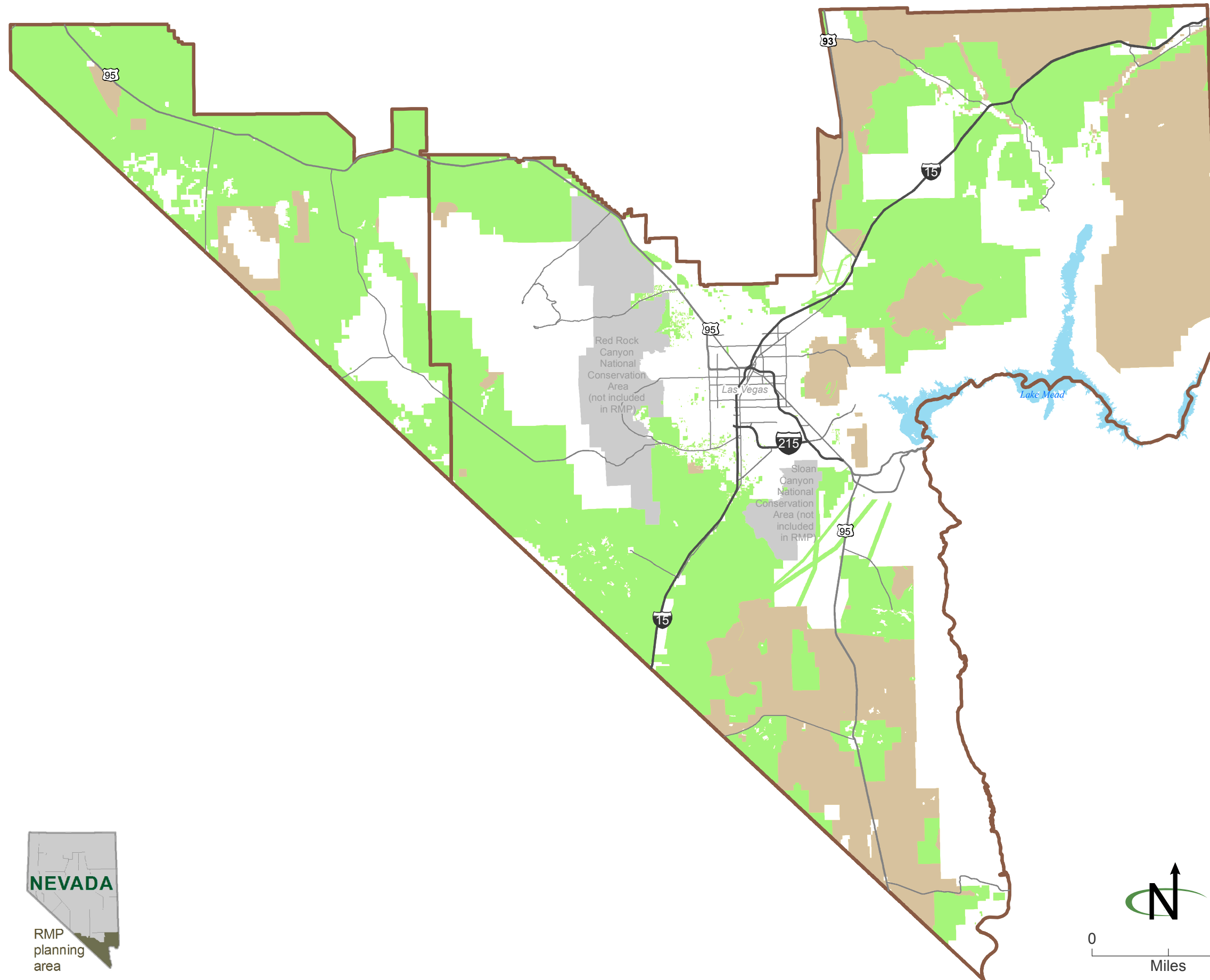


Source: BLM GIS 2019  
 Print date: July 25, 2019  
 SNDO\_RMP\_ROD\_alts\_LR\_Solar\_Alternative01.pdf  
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### Southern Nevada District Las Vegas Field Office Pahrump Field Office Updated Record of Decision

#### Wind Energy




-  Open to wind energy
-  Wind avoidance
-  Wind exclusion
-  SNDO RMP Planning Area

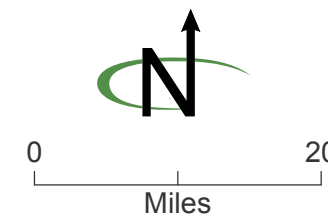
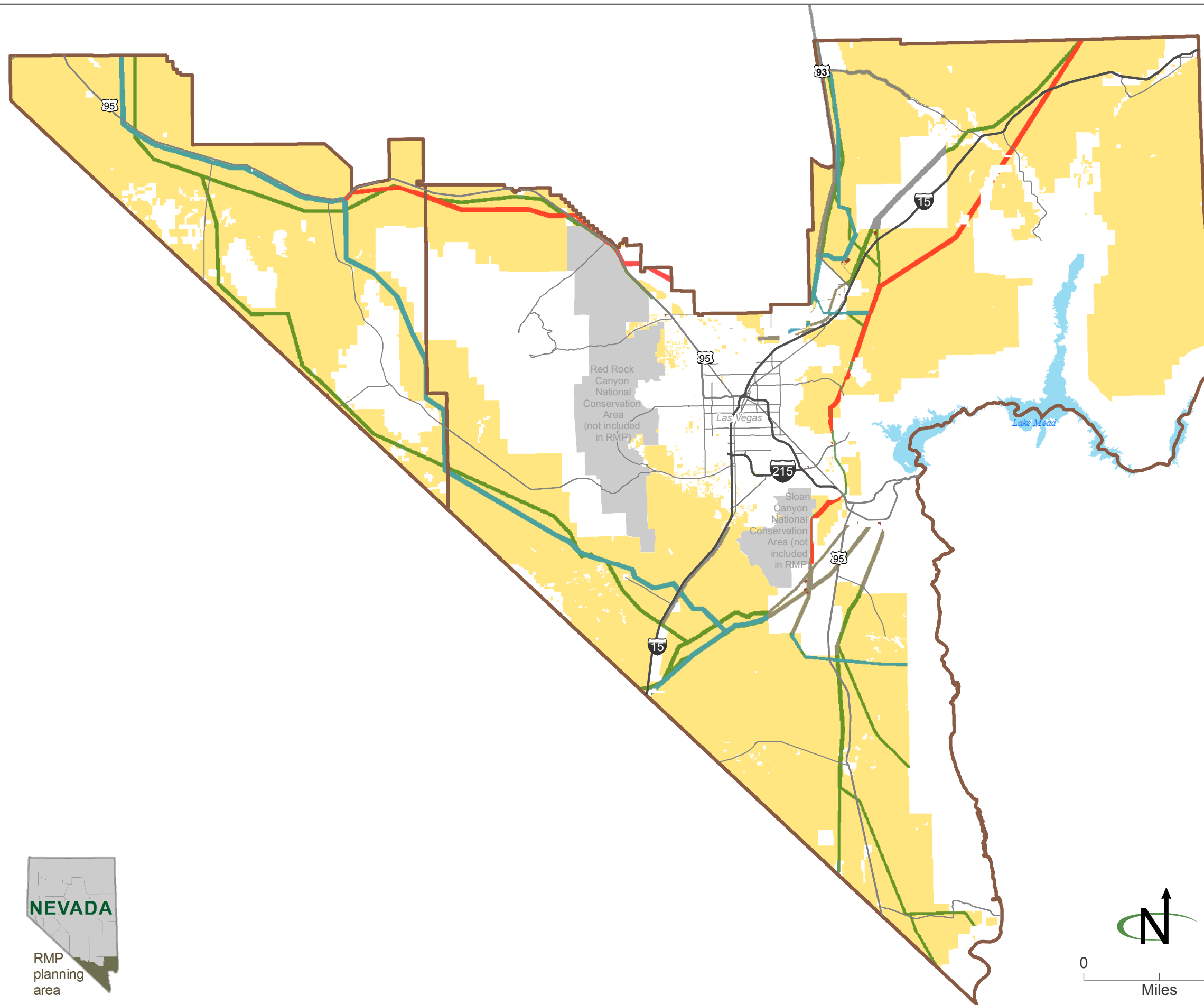


Source: BLM GIS 2018  
 Print date: July 25, 2019  
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### Southern Nevada District Las Vegas Field Office Pahrump Field Office Updated Record of Decision

#### Utility Corridors





-  1998 RMP Designated Corridor
-  Corridor of Concern
-  Legislative Corridor
-  Power Sub-Station
-  West Wide Energy Corridor
-  Bureau of Land Management
-  SNDO RMP Planning Area

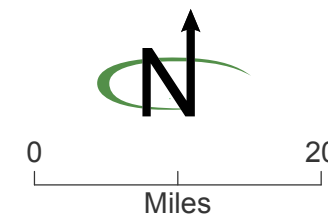
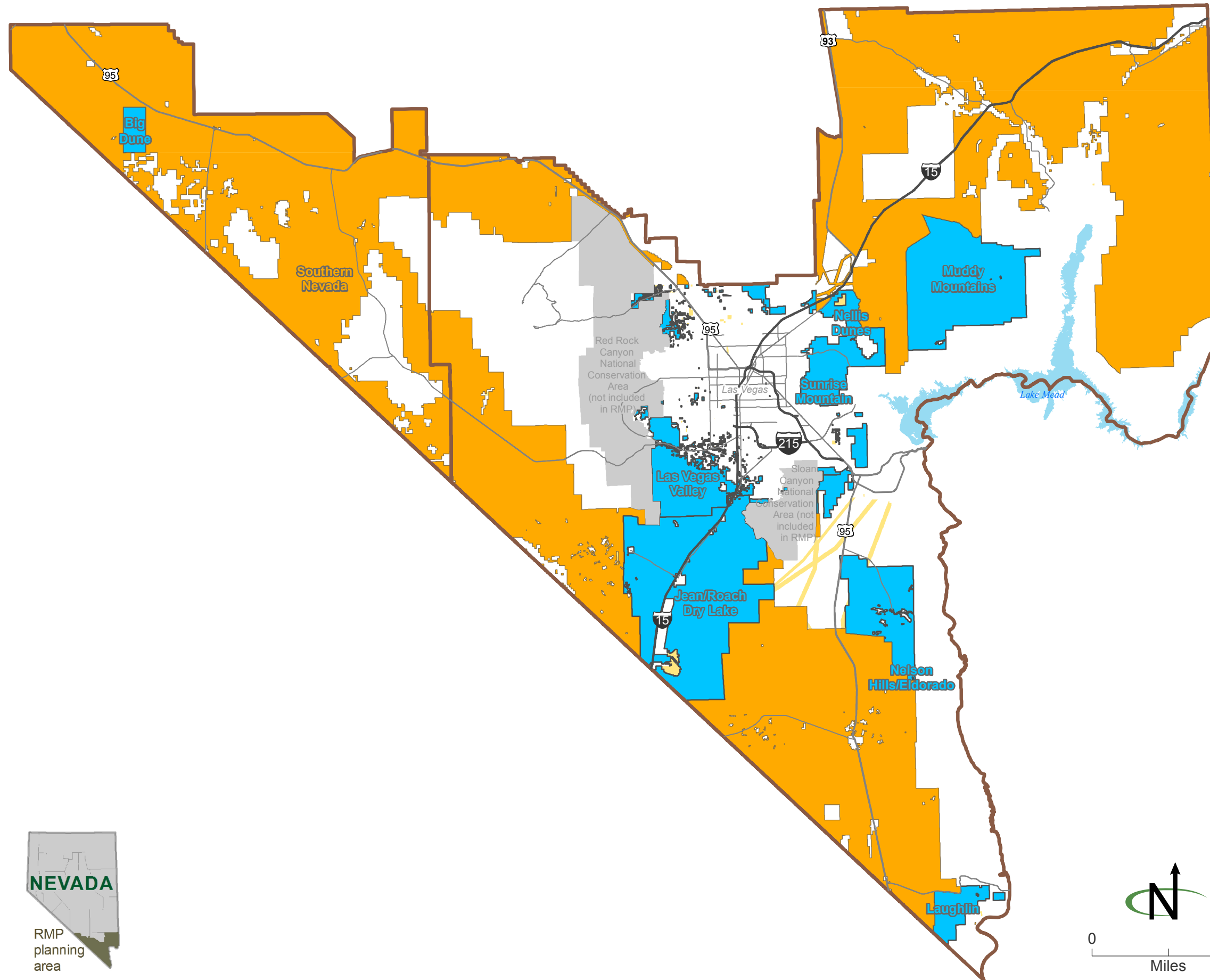


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 Print date: July 25, 2019  
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### Southern Nevada District Las Vegas Field Office Pahrump Field Office Updated Record of Decision

#### Recreation Management Areas

-  Special recreation management area (SRMA)
-  Extensive recreation management area (ERMA)
-  Public land not designated as an RMA
-  SNDO RMP Planning Area

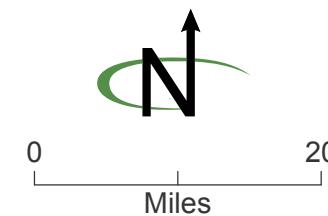
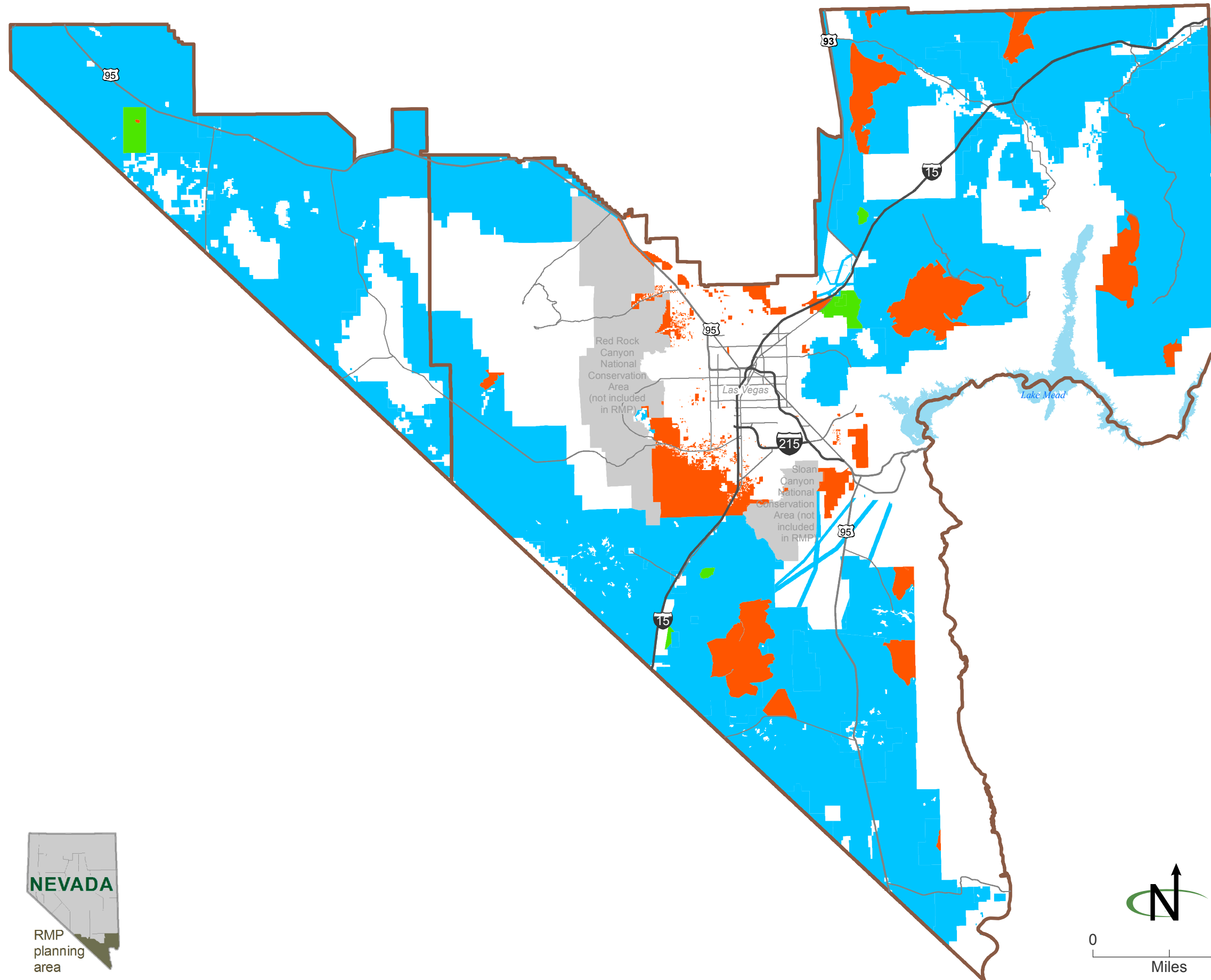


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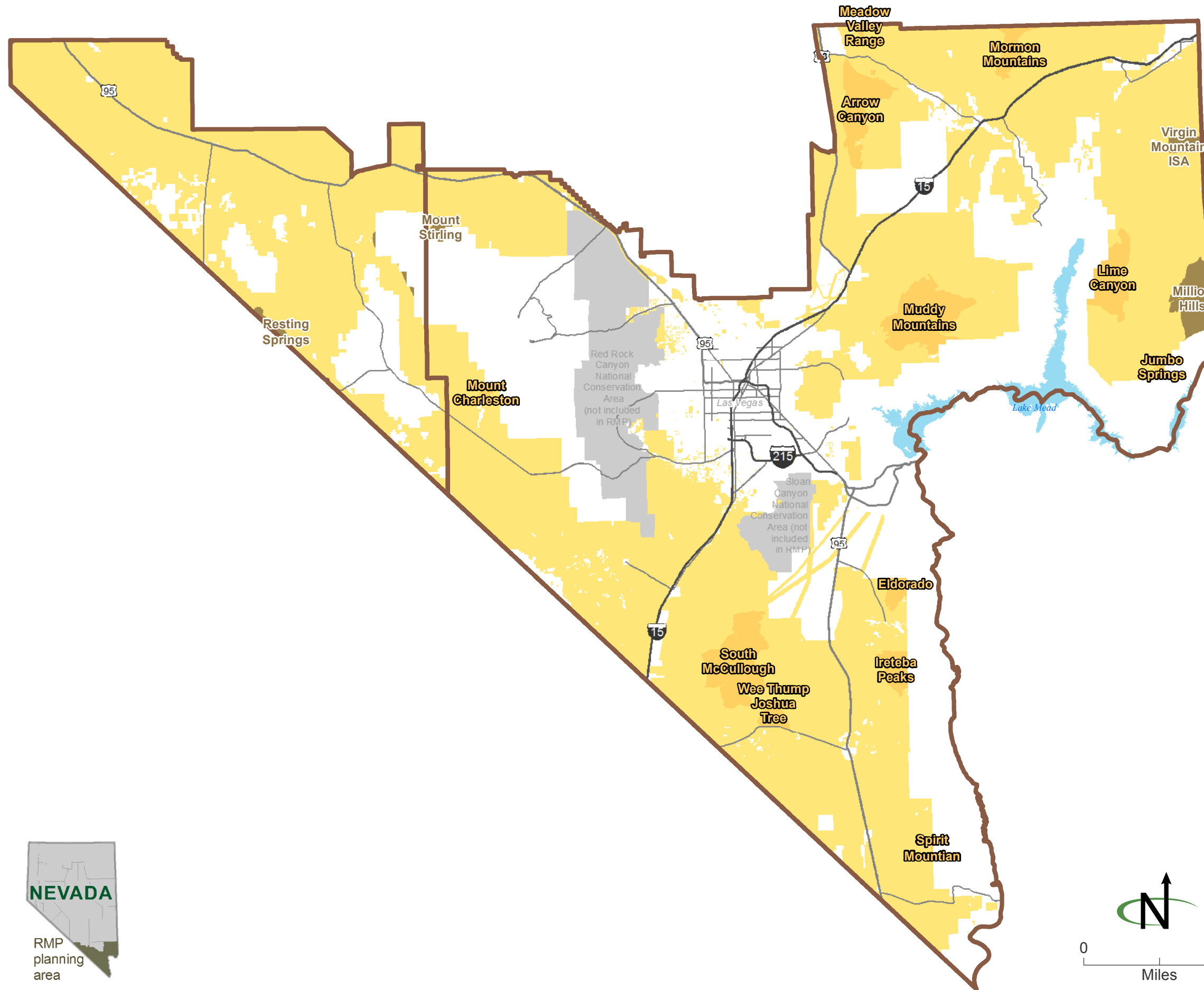
### Southern Nevada District Las Vegas Field Office Pahrump Field Office Updated Record of Decision

#### OHV Area Designations

- Closed
- Limited
- Open
- SNDO RMP Planning Area



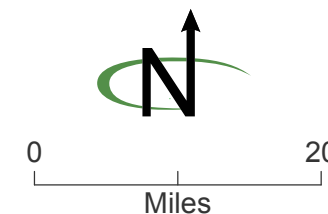
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**Southern Nevada District  
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**Wilderness/  
Wilderness Study Areas/  
Instant Study Areas**






- Wilderness
- Wilderness or Instant Study Area
- Bureau of Land Management
- SNDO RMP Planning Area

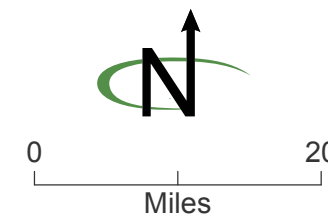
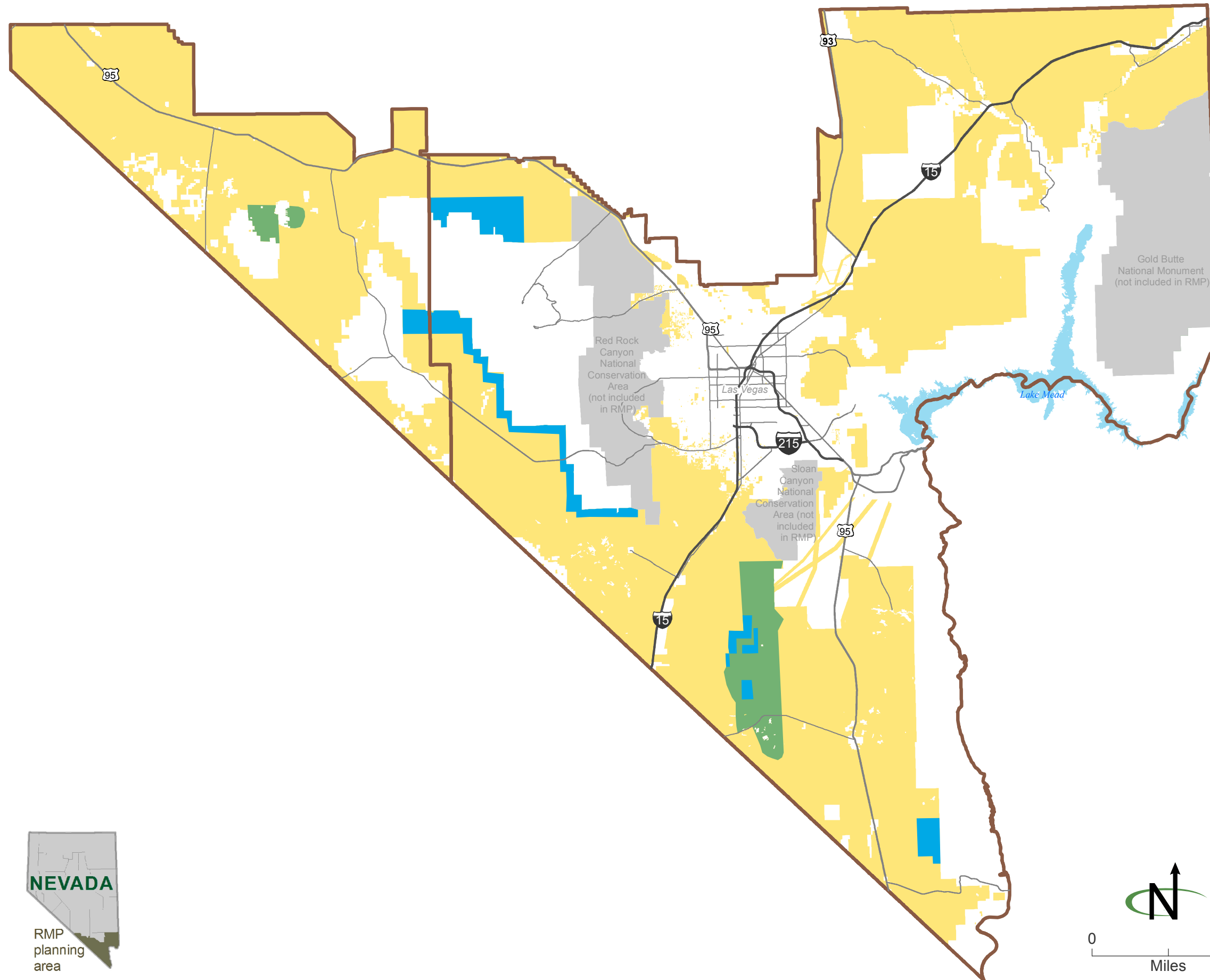


Source: BLM GIS 2018  
Print date: July 25, 2019  
SNDO\_RMP\_ROD\_alts\_Wilderness.pdf  
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### Southern Nevada District Las Vegas Field Office Pahrump Field Office Updated Record of Decision

#### Fire Management

-  Fuel reduction area (Alternative 1)
-  Resource enhancement area (Alternative 1)
-  Fire Management Unit (Alternatives 2, 3, and 4)
-  Bureau of Land Management
-  SNDO RMP Planning Area



Source: BLM GIS 2018  
 Print date: July 25, 2019  
 SNDO\_RMP\_ROD\_alts\_fire.pdf  
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