

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
DOI-BLM-NV-W010-2017-0007-EA

Unionville Cemetery R&PP Sale



Humboldt River Field Office/Nevada

January 2018
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Humboldt River Field Office
Winnemucca District
5100 E. Winnemucca Boulevard
Winnemucca, NV 89445



It is the mission of the Bureau of Land Management to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

BLM/NV/WN/EA/18-01+1792

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	6
1.1 IDENTIFYING INFORMATION.....	6
1.1.1 Project Title and Type.....	6
1.1.2 Project Location.....	6
1.1.3 Preparing Office.....	6
1.1.4 Subject Function Code and Serial Number.....	6
1.1.5 Applicant Name	6
1.2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION	6
1.3 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION.....	8
1.4 DECISION TO BE MADE	8
1.5 PERMITS AND APPROVALS	8
1.6 SCOPING, PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND ISSUES.....	9
PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES	10
2.1 PROPOSED ACTION.....	10
2.1.1 Project Location and Access.....	10
2.1.2 Project Description	10
2.1.3 Construction Activities	10
2.1.4 Operation and Maintenance	10
2.1.5 Environmental Protection Measures.....	10
2.2 NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE.....	11
2.3 CONFORMANCE WITH LAND USE PLANS	11
2.4 RELATIONSHIP TO LAWS, REGULATIONS, AND OTHER PLANS	11
3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT.....	13
3.1 SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	13
3.2 GENERAL SETTING.....	15
3.3 CULTURAL RESOURCES	15
3.4 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE	17
3.5 MIGRATORY BIRDS	17
3.6 LANDS AND REALTY	18
3.7 MINERALS.....	18
3.8 SOCIOECONOMICS: SOCIAL SETTING.....	19
4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES.....	21
4.1 DIRECT AND INDIRECT IMPACTS	21
4.1.1 Cultural Resources.....	21
4.1.2 Environmental Justice.....	21
4.1.3 Migratory Birds	22
4.1.4 Lands and Realty	22
4.1.5 Minerals.....	22
4.1.6 Social and Economic Values	23
4.2 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS	23
4.2.1 Cumulative Impacts.....	23

5.0 TRIBES, INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR AGENCIES CONSULTED	24
5.1 NATIVE AMERICAN CONSULTATION	24
5.2 COORDINATION AND/OR CONSULTATION (AGENCIES)	24
5.3 INDIVIDUALS AND/OR ORGANIZATIONS CONSULTED	24
5.4 PUBLIC OUTREACH/INVOLVEMENT	24
6.0 LIST OF PREPARERS.....	25
7.0 REFERENCES	26

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.5-1 Authorizations, Permits, Reviews, and Approvals.....	8
Table 1.5-2 Other Authorized Right-of-Way Holders.....	9
Table 3.1-1 List of Supplemental Authorities.....	13
Table 3.1-2 Additional Resources.....	14
Table 6.0-1 Bureau of Land Management Preparers, Reviewers, and Technical Specialists	25

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.2-1 General Location.....	7
Figure 2.1-1 Proposed Action.....	12
Figure 3.6-1 Pershing County Assessor’s Map.....	20

LIST OF ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

°F	Degrees Fahrenheit
AMSL	above mean sea level
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CO	Carbon monoxide
E.	East
EA	Environmental Assessment
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPM	Environmental Protection Measures
ESA	Environmental Site Assessment
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
I-80	Interstate 80
MPH	Miles per Hour
N.	North
NAC	Nevada Administrative Code
NDEP	Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
NHT	National Historic Trails
NRS	Nevada Revised Statutes
R&PP	Recreation and Public Purposes Act
R.	Range
RMP	Resource Management Plan
ROW	Rights-of-Way
T.	Township
U.S.	United States
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Identifying Information

1.1.1 Project Title and Type

Unionville Cemetery Recreation and Public Purposes Land Sale, DOI-BLM-NV-W010-2017-0007-EA, Environmental Assessment (EA).

1.1.2 Project Location

Humboldt County, Nevada

The Unionville Cemetery is located in the southwest portion of Pershing County, approximately 27 miles northeast of Lovelock, Nevada. The proposed project area parts of Township (T.) 30 North (N.), Range (R.) 34 East (E.), section 24, Mount Diablo Meridian. The general location of the project area is shown on Figure 1.2-1.

1.1.3 Name and Location of Preparing Office

The EA was prepared by the following BLM office:

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Humboldt River Field Office
5100 East Winnemucca Boulevard
Winnemucca, NV 89445

1.1.4 Project Function Code and Serial Number

The proposed action presented in this EA is based on a plan of development submitted by Pershing County and Serial Number 2920 Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act N-60081.

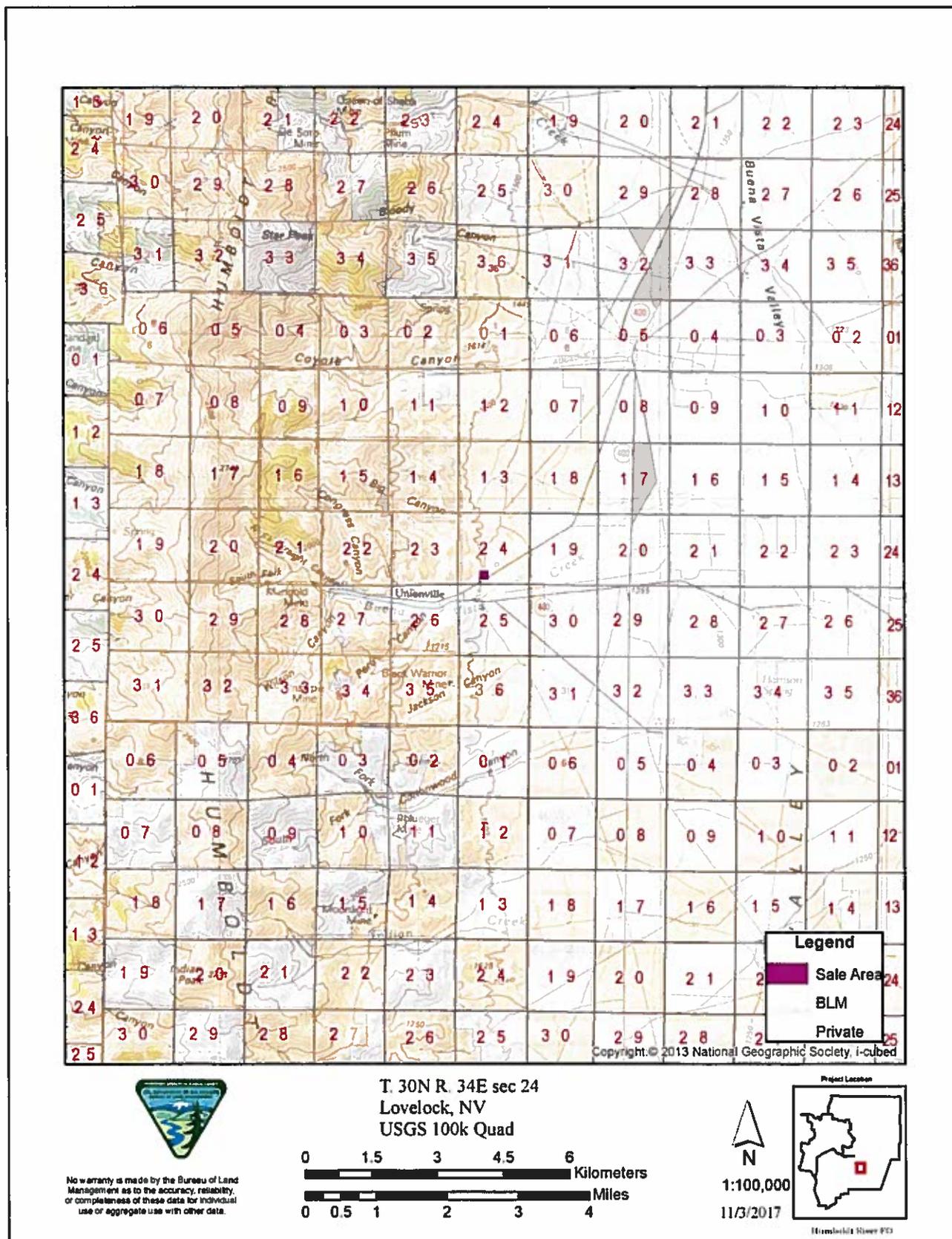
1.1.5 Applicant Name

Purchase, maintenance, and development of the Unionville Cemetery, as described under this EA, is proposed by Pershing County.

1.2 Background Information

The primary purpose of Pershing County's proposal is to purchase public land through an R&PP application for continued use of the Unionville Cemetery, while maintaining, preserving, and improving the property. The Unionville Cemetery dates to the 1860s, when Unionville was a thriving mining camp and the seat of Humboldt County. Although it is a historic cemetery with many marked and unmarked historic graves, the cemetery continues to be used by Pershing county residents for the burial of family members. The R&PP application, N-60081, is for ten acres of public land, located adjacent to Unionville, Nevada (Figure 1.2-1).

Figure 1.2-1 Project Location



Pershing County has submitted an R&PP Application (Form 2740-1) to the BLM in order to acquire the public land through the R&PP Act. If this project is approved, the BLM would convey the public lands to Pershing County via sale for the continued use and maintenance as a cemetery.

1.3 Purpose and Need for Action

The BLM's purpose for the federal action is to provide Pershing County with the opportunity to purchase and use the Unionville Cemetery and surrounding public land for the burial of county residents.

The need for the action is established by BLM's responsibility under the R&PP Act of 1954, Section 212 of Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, and Part 2740 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) to respond to an R&PP application.

1.4 Decision to be Made

The decision to be made by BLM based on this EA includes the following: whether or not to convey ten acres of public land, which includes the Unionville Cemetery, to Pershing County under an R&PP sale.

1.5 Permits and Approvals

There are no required permits or approvals that must be granted by a local municipal agency. Federal and county permits and approvals needed for this project are shown in Table 1.5-1. Other authorized ROW holders are presented in Table 1.5-2.

Table 1.5-1 Authorizations, Permits, Reviews, and Approvals

Action Requiring Permit, Approval, Authorization, or Review	Required Permit/Approval/Authorization	Accepting Authority/Approving Agency	Statutory Reference
Federal			
Sale of BLM managed public land for the operation of the Unionville Cemetery	R&PP Sale	BLM Humboldt River Field Office	R&PP of 1954 (Public Law 113-296); U.S. Code 869; 43 CFR 2740; and 43 CFR 2912
County			
Purchase of BLM managed public land for the operation of the Unionville Cemetery	Memorandum of Understanding	Pershing County	-

Table 1.5-2 Other Authorized Right-of-Way Holders

Right-of-Way Holder	Case File Number	Type of Right-of-Way	Status	Legal Description
Pershing County	N-59759	Road	Authorized	T. 30N., R. 34 E., section 24

1.6 Scoping, Public Involvement and Issues

The project was internally scoped by the BLM interdisciplinary team in February 2017. On 4 May 2017, the BLM resource specialists met with Pershing County representatives to discuss the proposed project and potential issues and alternatives. External scoping for the proposed action was conducted from 8 September to 8 October 2017. In addition, letters of intent regarding the EA and proposed action were sent to residents and landowners in the Unionville area on August 29, 2017. No public issues or concerns were received by the BLM regarding the proposed land sale during external scoping.

2.0 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

This chapter describes in detail the following alternatives:

- Proposed Action- To dispose of the Unionville Cemetery and surrounding public lands, a total of ten acres, to Pershing County for use as a cemetery through an R&PP sale; and
- No Action Alternative- Continued BLM management of the Unionville Cemetery and surrounding public lands.

2.1 Proposed Action

2.1.1 Project Location and Access

The project is located in, Township 30 N., Range 34 E., section 24, SW ¼ NW ¼ SE ¼ SW ¼, SE ¼ NW ¼ SE ¼ SW ¼, NE ¼ SW ¼ SE ¼ SW ¼, NW ¼ SW ¼ SE ¼ SW ¼. This area is approximately 2,215 feet northeast of the town of Unionville (Figure 2.1-1).

2.1.2 Project Description

This project is the sale of ten acres of public land located adjacent to Unionville, Nevada (Figure 1.2-1). Pershing County has submitted an R&PP Application to the BLM in order to acquire public land to use as a cemetery.

2.1.3 Construction Activities

No immediate construction activities were identified under the plan of development submitted by Pershing County, but it is anticipated that the county would expand the boundaries of the Unionville cemetery over time to accommodate additional burials. This expansion would include extending the existing fence and the addition of any other features Pershing County and its residents deem appropriate for the Unionville Cemetery, including but not limited to walkways, signs, shrubbery, and trees.

2.1.4 Operation and Maintenance

Pershing County would assume operations associated with the use and maintenance of the Unionville Cemetery. This includes the mowing and trimming of vegetation within the cemetery boundaries and the maintenance and improvement of existing or future cemetery features.

2.1.5 Environmental Protection Measures

The following provides a description of the environmental protection measures that Pershing County has incorporated into the proposed project to reduce, or eliminate potential wildlife impacts from cemetery maintenance. These measures would be implemented by Pershing County or its contractors.

- Trash and other waste products that may attract wildlife would be properly managed or

collected in secured bins or containers placed within the Unionville Cemetery. All trash and other wastes would be removed from the cemetery and disposed of at an authorized facility.

- Maintenance actions for the Unionville Cemetery (mowing, weeding, installation or repairs for cemetery features) should take place outside of migratory bird breeding season (March 1 to August 31). If maintenance is conducted during the breeding season, a search for nests will take place prior to ground disturbances. If a nest is found, US Fish and Wildlife Service should be contacted on how to proceed.

2.2 No Action Alternative

The BLM would retain ownership of the Unionville Cemetery and would continue maintenance operations. No additional burials would be permitted on public lands within the boundaries of the cemetery.

2.3 Conformance with Land Use Plans

This document conforms to the Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan for the Winnemucca District Planning Area (WD RMP), May 2015, as amended by the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Great Basin Region, including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Idaho and Southwestern Montana, Nevada, northeastern California, Oregon, and Utah, dated September 21, 2015 (GRSG Plan Amendment and ROD).

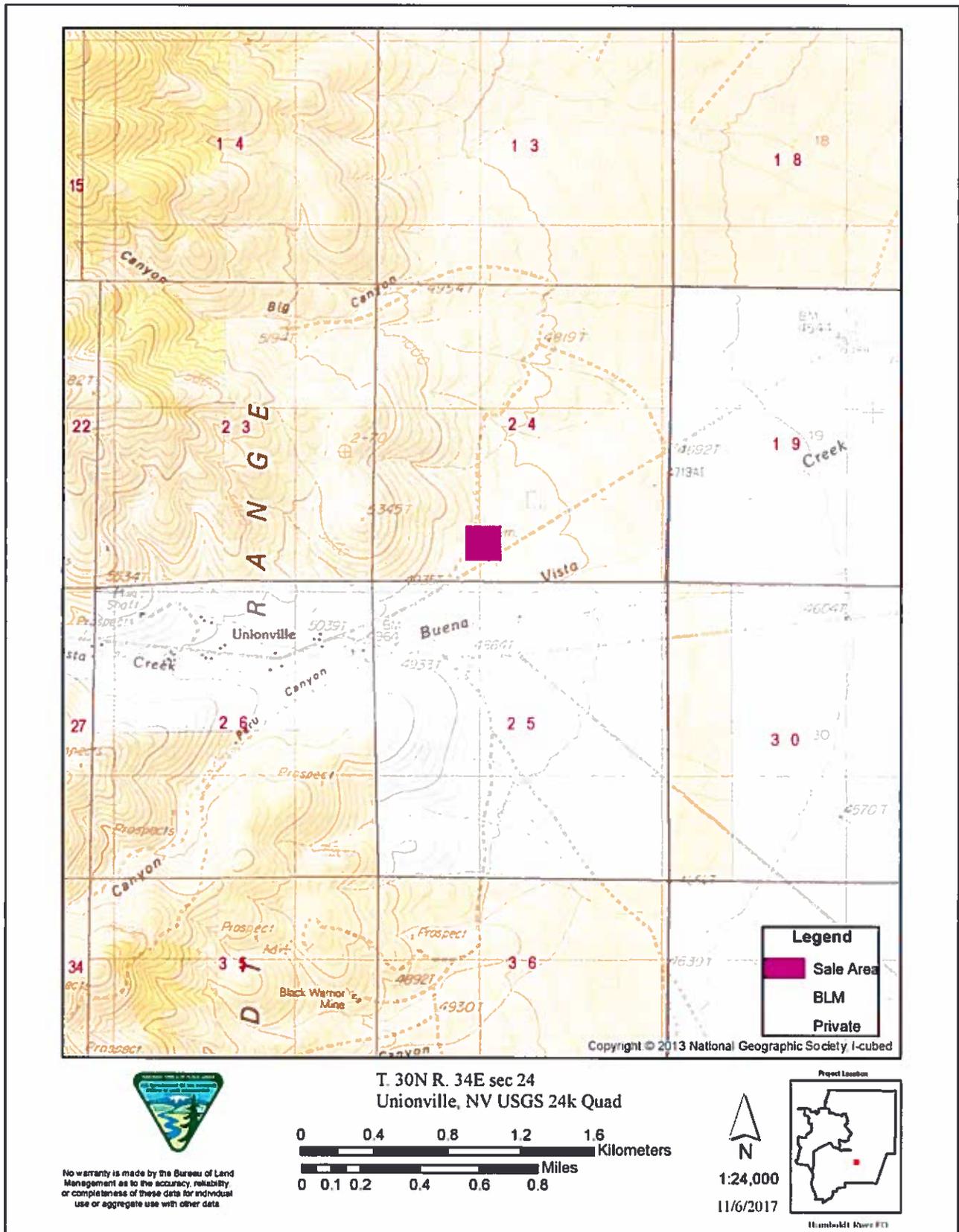
The Proposed Action and other alternatives analyzed in detail are in conformance with the WD WDRMP in Objective LR 2 and Action LR 2.9.

- Objective LR 2: Make available for disposal (through sale or exchange) those public lands where disposal provides for public benefit, public lands that have little or no resource value and that consolidates BLM land patterns to ensure effective administration, improve resource management and promote community development. Access to other public lands will be reserved to the US, if appropriate.
- Action LR 2.9: The lands described for disposal herein are hereby classified for conveyance purposes under the Carey Act, R&PP Act, as amended, Indian Allotments, and Desert Land Entry Acts in accordance with Section 7 of the Taylor Grazing Act, 43 USC, 315f, and Executive Order 6910.

2.4 Relationship to Laws, Regulations, and Other Plans

The Department of Interior regulations for R&PP's are found in 43 CFR §2740 and 43 CFR §2912. The R&PP authorizes the sale or lease of public lands for recreational or public purposes to State and local governments, as well as qualified nonprofit organizations. The act applies to all public lands identified for disposal within existing land use plans.

Figure 2.1-1 Proposed Action



3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

3.1 Supplemental Authorities and Additional Resources

The BLM is required to consider specific elements of the human environment that are subject to requirements specified in statute or regulation or by executive order. Table 3.1-1 outlines the elements considered in all environmental analyses. Table 3.1-2 presents additional important resources deemed necessary for evaluation by the BLM. In these tables, marking a resource as “Present/Not Affected” does not necessarily mean that no impacts would occur to that resource, but rather, that impacts to the resource are not expected to be substantial enough to require detailed analysis.

Table 3.1-1 List of Supplemental Authorities

Supplemental Authorities	Not Present	Present but Not Affected	Present and Potentially Affected	Rationale/Comments
Air Quality		✓		Based on the project scale and scope, there are no issues of concern with regard to this resource.
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	✓			There are no Areas of Critical Environmental Concern in or near the project area
Cultural Resources			✓	See discussions in Section 3.3 and 4.1.1
Environmental Justice	✓			See discussion in Section 3.4
Floodplains		✓		Based on the project scale and scope, there are no issues of concern with regard to this resource.
Invasive, Non-Native Species		✓		Based on the project scale and scope, there are no issues of concern with regard to this resource.
Migratory Birds			✓	See discussions in Section 3.5. and 4.1.2
Native American Religious Concerns		✓		See discussion in Chapter 5.
Farmlands Prime or Unique	✓			There are no prime or unique Farmlands in or near the project area.
Threatened and Endangered Species	✓			There are no threatened and endangered species in or near the project area.
Wastes, Hazardous or Solid	✓			An Environmental Site Assessment was completed on 18 July 2017. There are no hazardous or solid wastes in or near the project area.

Supplemental Authorities	Not Present	Present but Not Affected	Present and Affected	Rationale/Comments
Water Quality (Surface and Ground)		✓		Based on the project scale and scope, there are no issues of concern with regard to this resource.
Wetlands and Riparian Zones		✓		Based on the project scale and scope, there are no issues of concern with regard to this resource.
Wild and Scenic Rivers	✓			There are no rivers designated as wild and scenic in or near the project area.
Wilderness	✓			There are no wilderness areas in or near the project area.

Table 3.1-2 Additional Resources

Additional Resources	Not Present	Present but Not Affected	Present and Affected	Rationale/Comments
General Wildlife		✓		Based on the type of project and habitat conditions at the location, there are no issues of concern with regard to this resource.
Lands and Realty			✓	See discussions in Section 3.6. and 4.1.3
Lands with Wilderness Characteristics	✓			There are no Lands with Wilderness Characteristics in the project area.
Minerals			✓	See discussion in Section 3.7. and 4.1.4
Paleontology	✓			There are no paleontological resources in or near the project area. The Potential Fossil Yield Classification for the project area is Class III. There is a low potential for fossil finds in these Quaternary alluvial deposits
Rangeland Resources		✓		Based on the project scale and scope, there are no issues of concern with regard to this resource.
Recreation	✓			There are no recreation resources or issues in or near the project area.
Social and Psychological Values			✓	See discussion in Section 3.8. and 4.1.5
Special Status Species (P & A)	✓			There are no special status species or issues in or near the project area.
Wild Horse and Burro	✓			There are no wild horse or burro herd management areas or issues of concern with regard to this resource.

3.2 General Setting

Unionville is in Buena Vista Canyon, on the eastern flank of the Humboldt Range. The Unionville Cemetery is located at the base of a low foothill on an alluvial fan overlooking Buena Vista Valley to the east. The project area is located on a gentle slope (between 2 and 4 percent) in the southwest and southeast quarters of T. 30 N., R. 34 E. section 24. Elevations range between 4,880 and 4,920 AMSL. Several intermittent drainages have, and continue to, affect the project area. In particular, an east-trending drainage and a smaller adjoining drainage from the south have created a depression and undulation in the southern portion of the cemetery. Mechanically excavated ditches along the southern and western edges of the fence line were constructed to divert precipitation runoff and act as firebreaks.

Surface sediments within the site consist of pale, brownish-grey silty loam with gravel inclusions. Rhyolite rocks obtained from higher elevations outside the cemetery were used to line the outer edges of some of the burials. Low sagebrush (*Artemisia arbuscula*) grows on the landscape outside of the cemetery, but, within the fence line, the ground surface has been groomed to remove large shrubs. Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) is the dominant vegetation within the cemetery, and its growth has been encouraged by the disturbed soil. Miner's lettuce (*Claytonia perfoliata*) is also present.

Supplemental Authorities

3.3 Cultural Resources

Title 54 U.S.C. §300101, commonly known as the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA) and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, as amended (ARPA) are the primary laws regulating preservation of cultural resources. Federal regulations obligate federal agencies to protect and manage cultural resource properties. The NHPA sets forth procedures for considering effects to historic properties and supports and encourages the preservation of prehistoric and historic resources. It directs federal agencies to consider the impacts of their actions on historic properties.

The NHPA established the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) and tasked the ACHP with administering and participating in the preservation review process. The NHPA, as amended, requires federal agencies to take into account any action that may adversely affect any structure or object that is, or can be, included in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). These regulations, codified at 36 CFR 60.4, provide criteria to determine if a site is eligible. Beyond that, the regulations define how those properties or sites are to be dealt with by federal agencies or other involved parties. These regulations apply to all federal undertakings and all cultural (archaeological, cultural, and historic) resources.

The affected environment area for impacts to cultural resources includes the direct and indirect Area of Potential Effects (APE). The direct APE is the project area. Based on the scope and scale of the project, no indirect APE was defined for the project because no indirect physical, visual, audible, or atmospheric effects are anticipated with the project.

The entire APE for the project was subjected to a Class III cultural resource inventory. This work included a detailed study of the Unionville Cemetery (Mahoney et al. 2015) and a survey of additional lands outside of the cemetery that are part the R&PP application (Yacubic et al. 2016). The initial study of the cemetery included background research on the historic cemetery and fieldwork conducted between October 29 and November 1, 2013. Fieldwork techniques included standard inventory methods and the use of ground penetrating radar. A total of 6.19 acres were inventoried, resulting in the identification of the Unionville cemetery boundary and a sparse lithic scatter. Both resources were recorded as a single multi-component site, 26PE4098 (CrNV-02-12500).

A subsequent study of the remaining area outside of the cemetery was completed on September 9, 2015. No historic properties were found during the survey. In addition, a quarter-acre area outside of the cemetery was studied by a forensic canine investigations team, with the goal of identifying unmarked graves outside of the cemetery boundary (Greibenkemper 2016). Additional burial locations were identified north of the cemetery, but these features are within the designated archaeological boundaries of Site 26PE4098 (CrNV-02-12500).

Results of the cultural resource inventory indicate the site is in poor condition and has suffered from erosional processes and vandalism. The extreme lack of information regarding the identity, cultural affiliation, birth and death dates, and cause of death of the vast majority of the interred inhibits future research potential at the cemetery. In addition, modern attributes such as the railroad tie and barbed wire fencing, metal cattle gates, and use of cement for burial demarcations hinder any historic character the site may possess. The prehistoric component of Site 26PE4098 (CrNV-02-12500) consists of a sparse and highly disturbed lithic scatter. Artifacts identified within the site boundaries include an Elko-series obsidian projectile point, one unknown projectile point fragment, and 25 flakes and flake fragments composed of obsidian, rhyolite, and crypto-crystalline silicate. There are no indications of subsurface deposits at the site and there is a very low potential for additional information important to prehistory that can be gleaned from the lithic scatter beyond what has already been recorded, notwithstanding the presence of a diagnostic projectile point.

Both the prehistoric and historic components of Site 26PE4098 (CrNV-02-12500) were determined not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) by the

BLM. The Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concurred with this determination on December 11, 2015.

3.4 Environmental Justice

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies (EPA, 2015b). The affected environment for environmental justice consists of the Census Blocks and Block Groups that the proposed project would be located within or adjacent to. Census Blocks were used specifically for identifying minority populations because U.S. Census Bureau data is available for race and ethnicity for individual blocks. Income and poverty status data is not available for individual blocks, only Block Groups or larger areas. The U.S. Census Blocks that comprise the assessment area is Pershing County. With the proposed land sale, no environmental impacts to specific racial, ethnic, religious or economic groups within the area of Unionville or Pershing County were identified.

3.5 Migratory Birds

Migratory birds are protected and managed under the MBTA of 1918, as amended (16 United States Code §703 et. seq.), and Executive Order 13186. The MBTA prohibits the killing or taking of migratory birds without a permit and extends protection to nests of migratory birds if the nest contains nesting birds or their eggs. Executive Order 13186 directs federal agencies to promote the conservation of migratory bird populations. Additional direction comes from the BLM Instruction Memorandum (IM) 2008-050 (Migratory Bird Treaty Act – Interim Management Guidance), dated December 18, 2007 (BLM 2007). The affected environment for migratory birds is the project area. Based on the type of project and habitat conditions at the location, the project area is sufficient.

To determine baseline migratory bird use of the project area, a point count and ground search was conducted on April 27, 2017 by a BLM wildlife biologist. Because of the diminutive size of the project, one point, located at UTM 11 406324 mE 4478649 mN, was sufficient to cover the project area. The point count survey began at 5:48 am and ended at 5:53 am. Conditions at the start of the survey were partly cloudy, 39 °F, and a steady wind of 7 to 8 mph. The point count detected two Horned Larks (*Eremophila alpestris*) and two Western Meadowlarks (*Sturnella neglecta*).

To determine baseline Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) use of the project area, a ground search was also conducted on April 27, 2017 immediately following the point count. This survey consisted of a BLM wildlife biologist walking concentric circles in and around the project area searching for burrowing owls and/or sign of occupied burrows. To improve upon the point count

survey, observations of all migratory birds were recorded.

No burrowing owls were observed during the ground survey. Other migratory birds observed during the ground survey include eight Horned Larks, five Sagebrush Sparrows (*Artemisiospiza nevadensis*), three Western Meadowlarks, two Chipping Sparrows (*Spizella passerina*), one American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), and three Common Ravens (*Corvus corax*) (flyover).

Additional Affected Resources

3.6 Lands and Realty

The affected environment for lands and realty is the project area. The project area is located within the checkerboard pattern of public and private lands in northern Nevada (Figure 3.6-1). There is one authorized ROW in the project area. The authorized ROW (N-59759) is held by Pershing County and leads to a transfer station operated by Pershing County. Currently, an improved dirt road is located in the ROW.

3.7 Minerals

The project area lies on the eastern flank of the Humboldt Mountain Range facing towards the Buena Vista Valley (Nevada Hydrographic Basin 129) and the East Range. This range is located within the Basin and Range Physiographic Province, a region characterized by a series of generally north-trending mountain ranges separated by alluvial valleys. The mountain ranges are typically 5-15 miles wide, separated by low intervening valleys or basins that range from 10-20 miles in width. These features were created by extensional tectonism and block faulting that resulted in horst and graben structures, beginning in the middle Tertiary and continuing into the present.

The mountains and hills are typically drained by short perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral streams that disappear into the broad alluvial fans at the foot of the mountain ranges. Rivers or are generally present in the center of the valleys or basins. These rivers and streams may be connected, but all basins eventually terminate as closed basins. The Buena Vista Creek ephemeral stream, located south of the subject property, flows east-northeast towards the center of the Buena Vista Valley, which is a closed basin that terminates in a playa.

The geology of the Humboldt Range upgradient of the subject property consists principally of Triassic rocks of the Star Peak Group, Koipato Group, leucogranite, and rhyolite porphyry. The Star Peak Group consists of carbonate, volcanic, and coarse clastic rocks divided into the Prida and Natchez Pass Formations. The Koipato Group consists of the Limerick Greenstone (andesitic flows and flow breccias), Rochester Rhyolite, and the Weaver Rhyolite.

The Buena Vista Valley downgradient of the subject property is filled with Quaternary sediments of fluvial, aeolian, lacustrine (Lake Lahontan) and alluvial origin. Surface soils in the subject parcel consists of fine sandy to gravelly loam in the southeastern half of the property to clays (derived from decomposed volcanic rocks) in the northwestern half. The very sandy to gravelly loam is generally derived from mixed rocks, loess, and volcanic ash. The subject property is underlain by an unknown thickness of unconsolidated alluvium, consisting of clays, silts, sands, and gravels, presumably located above the same rocktypes found in the Humboldt Range.

3.8 Socioeconomics: Social and Psychological Values

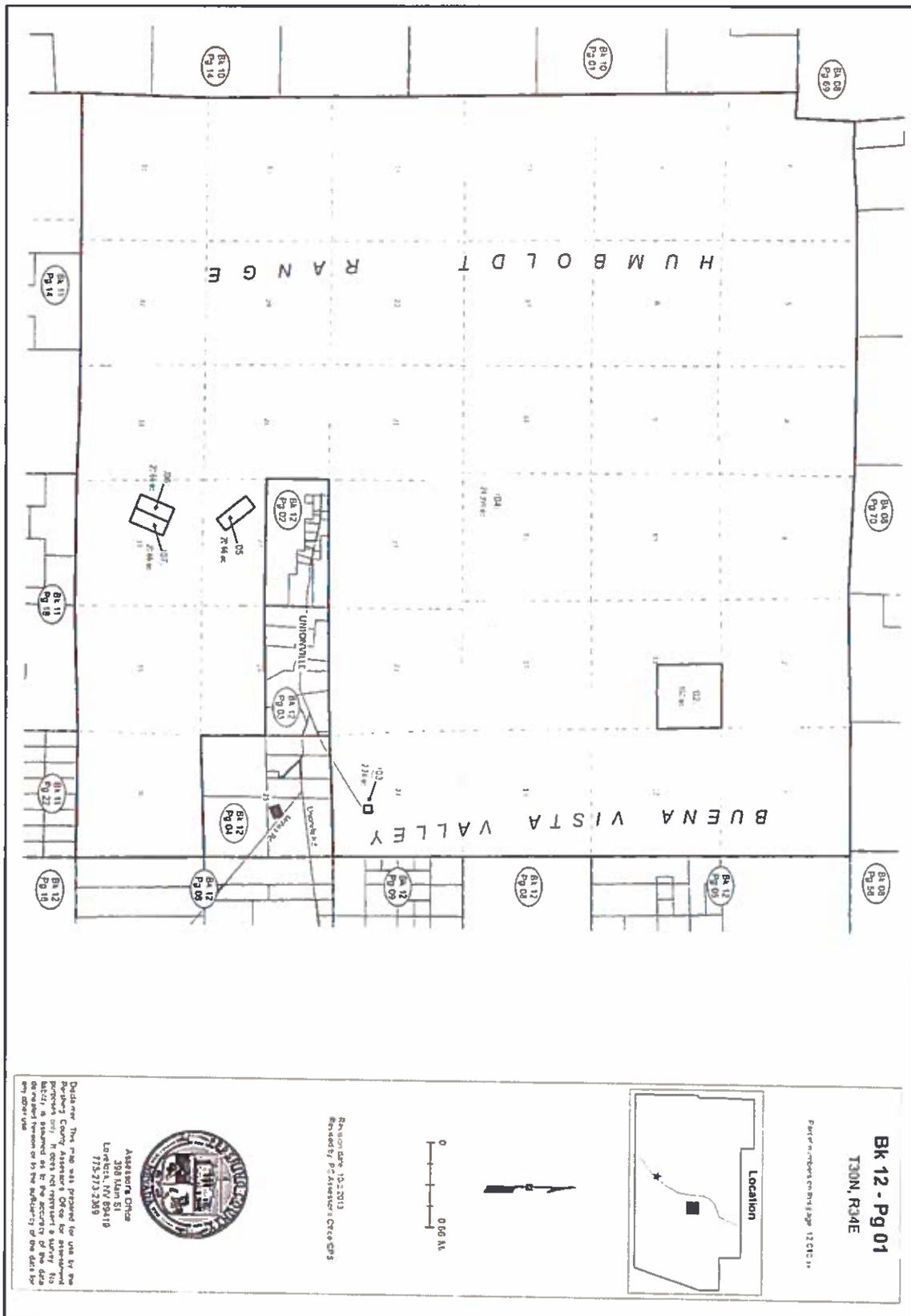
The affected environment for social and psychological values consists of Pershing County. Pershing County is distinct from Nevada, the comparison population, in that it had a higher estimated percentage of men in 2016 than the rest of Nevada (more than 66% versus just over 50% for Nevada), and the County had a larger population component made up of persons of ages 25 to 59 (54% versus 48% for Nevada). In 2016, Pershing County had an estimated total population of 6,722 persons, less than 3 tenths of one percent of the total population of the State of Nevada.¹ Pershing County's median household income from 2011 to 2015 was estimated at \$45,230. This estimate is lower than the average Nevada's median household income of \$51,847 for the same period (2015 dollars). Per capita incomes for Pershing County and the State of Nevada during the same time period were \$17,332 and \$26,541, respectively. Additionally, Pershing County had a higher poverty rate (18.3%) for the most recent reporting period than did the State of Nevada as a whole (14.7%). The statistics above indicate there is a large male, working-age cohort in the County and a low income, higher poverty rate compared with Nevada. Upon closer examination, it becomes apparent that the data are skewed by the presence of a large prison population. One report states that as much as 21% of the County's population is made up of prisoners. As a result, it is difficult to determine baseline demographics for the County.²

Because there are families living in the community who have ancestors and relatives buried in the Unionville Cemetery, there are personal and social connections between the community and the cemetery. In addition, there could be individuals who no longer live in the immediate area but who have family members buried in the cemetery. They too could feel a sense of close connection to the cemetery and to the history it represents, as well as having a potential future interested in being interred in the cemetery. These connections are long-term in nature and lead individuals from the local area to feel a sense of place that generates interest in events and decisions that might affect the future of the cemetery.

¹ Demographic comparison data obtained from www.census.gov, accessed August 11, 2017.

² <https://www.prisonersofthecensus.org/nevada/importing.html>

Figure 3.6-1 Pershing County Assessor's Map



4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

4.1 Direct and Indirect Impacts

For the purposes of this analysis, the project area is defined as the southwest and southeast quarters of T. 30 N., R. 34 E section 24 (Figure 1.2-1). The R&PP boundary is defined as the project area (Figure 1.2-1). The analysis area is identified for each resource topic within each section of this chapter.

Supplemental Authorities

4.1.1 Cultural Resources

The analysis area encompasses the entire Area of Potential Effects (APE). The direct APE is the project area. Based on the scope and scale of the project, no indirect APE was defined for the project because no indirect physical, visual, audible, or atmospheric effects are anticipated with the project.

Proposed Action

Under the proposed action, 10 acres of land would be conveyed to Pershing County through an R&PP sale. This 10 acre area includes the boundaries Site 26PE4098 (CrNV-02-12500). Under the scope of work proposed by Pershing County, damages will likely occur to this site through further development of the cemetery. However, this resource was analyzed and studied for historical significance and was determined not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Any archaeological value for Site 26PE4098 (CrNV-02-12500) was exhausted during previous archaeological investigations of this resource (Mahoney et al. 2015; Yacubic et al. 2016). Because of the low historic and archaeological value of the site, no additional consideration for this resource is warranted.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, There would be no change to any cultural resources identified within the project area. The BLM would continue to provide oversight and management of Site 26PE4098 (CrNV-02-12500) with no changes to the site components.

4.1.2 Migratory Birds

The analysis area for migratory birds is the project area.

Proposed Action

The direct impact to migratory birds include the destruction of nests and the loss of habitat from ground disturbing activities (grave preparation, mowing, etc). Indirect impacts include disturbance/noise from activities in the project area. To reduce impacts it is recommended to

conduct on-site maintenance outside of migratory bird breeding season (March 1 – August 31) and to conduct nest searches prior to ground disturbance during the breeding season. If a nest is found, US Fish and Wildlife Service should be contacted on how to proceed.

No Action Alternative

No impacts to migratory birds would be expected under the No Action Alternative.

4.1.3 Lands and Realty

The analysis area for lands and realty is the project area.

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action would convey 10 acres of BLM-administered land to Pershing County. These lands would no longer be managed for multiple uses. There is one authorized ROW within the R&PP boundary, The Proposed Action would potentially disturb an existing ROW (N-59759) held by Pershing County, which leads to a transfer station operated by Pershing County. The R&PP patent, if issued, would be subject to the existing ROW in the project area. As the ROW holder and project proponent, Pershing County is aware of the potential impacts to the ROW from the proposed action and will ensure that ROW access to the transfer station is maintained under its current terms and conditions (including expiration date – status quo), or requesting their ROW in perpetuity.

No Action Alternative

Land use in the project area would not change under the No Action Alternative; therefore, no impacts to ROW holders and land use would be expected.

4.1.4 Minerals

The analysis area for mineral resources is the project area.

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action would convey 10 acres of BLM-administered land to Pershing County. These lands would no longer be managed for multiple uses including mineral exploration and development.

No Action Alternative

No impacts to minerals would be expected under the No Action Alternative.

4.1.5 Socioeconomics: Social and Psychological Values

Proposed Action

The proposed action would provide the opportunity for people who have ancestors or family members located in the Unionville Cemetery to be interred within the cemetery at some point in the future. Implementation of the proposed action would provide a sense of psychological peace of mind and an ongoing sense of connection to the cemetery for those in the community (or elsewhere) who have a direct connection with Unionville and the cemetery.

No Action Alternative

The current social and economic setting described in Section 3.8 would continue. Unionville Cemetery would remain in BLM ownership. The No Action Alternative may result in emotional distress on the part of community members who would prefer to be interred at the same cemetery as ancestors or other family members but who would not be able to do so due to restricted space. This could also become a source of ongoing sadness or disappointment among community members and connected families.

4.2 Cumulative Impacts

Impacts associated with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions are generally created by ground or vegetation-disturbing activities that effect natural and cultural resources in various ways. Of particular concern is the *accumulation* of these impacts over time. This section of the EA considers the nature of the cumulative effect and analyzes the degree to which the Proposed Action and alternatives contribute to the collective impact.

Based on the conclusions made in the analysis of direct and indirect impacts, no cumulative impacts from the proposed action would occur to the following resources: Cultural Resources, Migratory Birds, Lands and Realty, Minerals, and Socioeconomics: Social and Psychological Values.

5.0 TRIBES, INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR AGENCIES CONSULTED

5.1 Native American Consultation

Project notification letters were mailed August 15, 2016 to the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, Lovelock Paiute Tribe, and the Winnemucca Indian Colony. The BLM requested comments from the tribes within 35 days, during which time no comments were received from any of the tribes. The Proposed Action was discussed with the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe Cultural Committee in October 27, 2016 during a routine discussion: The committee said that they did not have any issue with the project because they did not know of any connection between the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe and the Unionville cemetery. While the tribal consultation process is on-going through the life of the project, the BLM believes it has made a good faith effort to engage Tribal Nations in the process of providing and gathering information in efforts to consult on the Proposed Action.

5.2 Coordination and/or Consultation (Agencies)

No specific coordination with other agencies was necessary during the development of the EA.

5.3 Individuals and/or Organizations Consulted

No specific coordination was necessary during the development of the EA.

5.4 Public Outreach/Involvement

On 4 May 2017, BLM resource specialists met with Pershing County representatives to discuss the proposed project and potential issues and alternatives. External scoping for the EA was conducted from 8 September to 8 October 2017. Letters were sent to all Pershing County residents and land owners in the Unionville area. No issues or concerns were received by the BLM regarding the land sale during external scoping. No opposition to the proposed land sale was raised by the public during external scoping.

6.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

BLM staff from the Winnemucca District Office who contributed to this document are listed in the table below.

Table 6.0-1 Bureau of Land Management Preparers, Reviewers, and Technical Specialists

Name	Responsibility/Specialty
Evan Myers	Migratory Birds General Wildlife Special Status Species Threatened and Endangered Species
Rob Burton	Air Quality Vegetation Soils
Debbie Dunham	Lands and Realty
Robert Gibson	Water Quality Wetlands and Riparian Areas Floodplains
Sabrina McCue	Rangeland Management
Kurt Miers	Wastes, Solid and Hazardous Human Health and Safety
Shannon Mazzei	Technical Coordinator
Lynn Ricci	National Environmental Policy Act Compliance
Julie Suhr Pierce	Environmental Justice Social and Economic Values
Rob Burton	Noxious, Invasive, Non-Native Species
Matt Yacubic	Project Manager Cultural Resources Paleontological
Tanner Whetstone	Native American Religious Concerns
Brian Scott Older	Recreation Visual Resources
Jean Black	Minerals
Samantha Gooch	Wild Horse and Burros
Keith Karageorge	GIS

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