
APPENDIX B
CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

APPENDIX B CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

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Comment Letter

From: Keyzers, Anna M CIV NAVFAC SW, OPWM39
Sent: Friday, August 02, 2013 15:02
To: redwards@usbr.gov
Cc: Waxer, Debora E CIV NAVFAC SW; Cottle, Gary CIV NAVFAC SW
Subject: FW: BOR Newlands RMP Comments Due

Mr. Edwards,
Please see the below comments from the NAS Fallon, Environmental Division on the Draft Resource Management Plan /Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft RMP/EIS) for the Newlands Project

Page 1-5: Add NAS Fallon to list of water users. Navy has 1,058 acres of water rights in the Newlands Project.

Page 3-26 Re: Navy has 14,000 AcFt in Dixie Valley. The Navy doesn't have this many water rights in Dixie Valley. Dixie Valley is not in the Newlands Project.

Page 3-49 Update the bat species. They are using our old 1997 Ecological Inventory. Use 2008 EcoInventory for list of bats.

Page 3-68 correct acreage for Main Station is 8,670 acres. 2800 civilians is incorrect. Contact Zip Upham, PAO for correct numbers.

Old Navy Documents in Reference Section:
-1997 EcoInventory.
-2000 INRMP SAIC this was only a Draft.
-1991 Tui Chub Report from Dixie Valley-uncertain to what this is referring to.
-1991 Navy Natural Resource Management Plan. Change to 2006 NAS Fallon Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan.
-Starting on Page 3-1, 1991 reference to CA Dept of Water Resources data. Use NV or USGS data for references.

Anna Keyzers
NAS Fallon, PW ENV
Natural Resources/EMS Program Manager
Ph: 775.426.2922
Alt: 775.853.6939

Responses

Page 1-5: Information corrected.

Page 3-26: Information corrected.

Page 3-49: Information corrected.

Page 3-68: Information corrected.

Comment Letter



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

July 24, 2013

Mr. Bob Edwards
Lahontan Basin Area Office
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
705 North Plaza Street, Room 320
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Subject: Newlands Project Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, Churchill, Lyon, Storey, and Washoe Counties, Nevada (CEQ# 20130156)

Dear Mr. Edwards:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Newlands Project Draft Resource Management Plan pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The EPA commends the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) for developing a broad range of alternatives for sustainably managing the planning area, and is pleased that many protective measures have been incorporated into the Preferred Alternative. These measures, including prohibiting off-road vehicle operation except by special use permit, prohibiting mineral development in wetlands, wildlife areas, and riparian habitats, and designating sensitive biological, cultural, and hazardous areas as exclusion or avoidance zones, should serve as crucial safeguards for planning area resources.

Based on our review of the Draft RMP/DEIS, we have rated the Preferred Alternative and the document as *Lack of Objections – Adequate* (LO-1) (see the enclosed "Summary of EPA Rating Definitions"). Reclamation has done a commendable job addressing the two main rationales for updating the Newlands RMP: to identify and analyze the relinquishment of non-essential Reclamation-administered lands, and to develop and implement a grazing management plan for the pastures currently hosting livestock activities that will remain under Reclamation management.

The Draft RMP/EIS clearly describes the need for a robust grazing management plan, both to address pervasive, long-term damage from livestock within the planning area, and to ensure that future grazing activities comport with Reclamation Manual Directives and Standards as well as with requirements under NEPA. The Draft Grazing Management Plan (Plan) contains a number of critical components, including evaluations of land health conditions on all pastures where grazing is currently permitted; protections for riparian areas, soils, and special status species; and monitoring requirements, all of which should, over time, restore rangeland health within the planning area.

The EPA recommends that, in addition to the proposed Plan, Reclamation adopt the recommendations identified by Forest Service staff during a 2009 assessment of grazing areas in the Newlands Project planning area, and incorporate them into the pasture plans that will be prepared for grazing areas that

Responses

Reclamation has considered the 2009 Forest Service recommendations in the formulation of the Final Grazing Management Plan (See Appendix A).

Reclamation has considered the effects of climate change on the lands described in this RMP and the policies and decisions being made through this RMP. Information on the potential effects of climate change on the environment within the Planning Area has been included in Section(s) 3.1 and 4.2.

The influence of those potential effects on water policy is outside the scope of this RMP. The influence of those effects on the decision being made in this RMP, primarily concern grazing. The effects of climate change will be able to be managed through the Grazing Management Plan, which is an adaptive plan allowing for changes in management due to changes in forage and drought conditions.

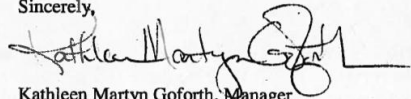
Comment Letter

will be retained by Reclamation. Implementation of these recommendations, including closing reseeded pastures a minimum of two years, changing the season of use, developing rotation systems, allowing several years of rest for smaller pastures, and implementing utilization limits, should hasten the recovery of Reclamation lands long-stressed from livestock activities.

We also recommend that the Final RMP/EIS include additional information on how climate change may affect planning area resources and future Newlands Project management decisions. The Draft RMP/EIS provides little detail about how climate change may affect the planning area. The EPA believes that the long duration of this management plan (most likely two or three decades), and the warming anticipated to occur in the planning area, as described in the Draft RMP/EIS, warrants the inclusion of a climate change mitigation and adaptation plan in the Final RMP/EIS.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this Draft RMP/EIS, and are available to discuss our comments. When the Final RMP/EIS is released, please send one CD copy to this office. If you have any questions, please contact me at 415-972-3521, or contact Jason, the lead reviewer for this project. Jason can be reached at 415-947-4221 or gerdes.jason@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Martyn Goforth, Manager
Environmental Review Office

Enclosure: Summary of EPA Rating Definitions

Responses

Comment Letter

NPS Comments on Newlands Project Resource Management Plan

The draft EIS mentions in passing the Pony Express Trail and the California gold rush but does not explicitly recognize the alignments of the California and Pony Express National Historic Trails through the project area. In particular, the project area appears to include portions of two High Potential segments of the California and Pony Express NHTs: the Humboldt Sink to Fernley HP segment and the Humboldt Sink to Dayton HP segment. In addition, the project might impact a California NHT High Potential site known as the Fernley ruts. NPS asks that the proponent identify these and any other NHT properties in the project area, on both public and private lands, and consult with the Oregon-California Trails Association, National Pony Express Association, and Trails West Inc., as well as NPS, with regard to any potential impacts to the trails and their historic setting. The NPS will share GIS data with the lead agency and can help establish contact with the three trails associations. For more information, please contact Cultural Resources Specialist Lee Kreutzer (801/741-1012 ext. 118, lee_kreutzer@nps.gov) of National Trails Intermountain Region, the NPS administering office for the two NHTs.

Responses

An Objective and Action item has been added to the Cultural Resources Section in Chapter 2 Alternatives to address NHT (Object CR 6 and Action CR 6.1). A map has been added depicting the NHT within the planning area (Fig 3-7). Additionally NHT are now addressed in Chap 3 and 4

Please note, this RMP does not propose any new projects that might impact the trails.

Comment Letter

LEO M. DROZDZOFF, P.E.
Director
Department of Conservation and
National Resources

REBECCA L. PALMER
Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor
STATE OF NEVADA



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

July 25, 2013

Bob Edwards
c/o Lahontan Basin Area Office
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
705 North Plaza Street, Room 320
Carson City NV 89701

RE: Newlands Project Draft RMP and EIS, Washoe, Storey, Lyon and Churchill Counties.

Dear Mr. Edwards:

The SHPO has reviewed the cultural resources portion of the subject document and finds that in our opinion it lacks sufficient detail for the public and this office to determine if the environmental consequences described in the document are an adequate summary of all of the potential effects to cultural resources that are possible under each of the three alternatives.

For example, on page 4-48 under the title Effects from Land Use Management there is a generally vague statement "Subsequent land uses could result in the full range of potential effects on cultural resources, depending on what the receiving agency proposes." Perhaps a discussion of the different effects for cultural resources when lands are withdrawn as they currently are under Bureau of Reclamation management and when they are open for multiple uses as they would likely be under Bureau of Land Management administration would help to clarify the somewhat cryptic statement "Disposal of lands to another federal agency would retain federal protections but could change specific management actions, such as occupancy restrictions or other protective measures."

Responses

The referenced section has been clarified. The discussion in the subject paragraph has been deleted, as the relinquishing of lands to the Bureau of Land Management is not a decision being made through this RMP. The potential relinquishing of lands to the BLM is discussed under cumulative impacts, as it is a reasonably foreseeable action. The cumulative impact section (Section 4.21) contains discussion of the differences between Reclamation and BLM management of cultural resources. Discussion of the SHPO's perspective on the difference between Reclamation and BLM management has been included.

Bob Edwards
July 25, 2013
Page 2 of 3

The SHPO has the following comments on specific items in the document:

- Page 3-40: the SHPO takes exception to the misinformation, omissions, misunderstandings, and the mischaracterization of our online statewide archaeological and architectural database (NVCRIS). First, the EIS asserts that NVCRIS system is housed by the Nevada State Museum. NVCRIS is a creation of the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office and has been managed by the SHPO since its inception in the early 1990's. NSM is a partner archive but has never managed NVCRIS. Second, the discussion about the data within NVCRIS is also incorrect. The data in NVCRIS represents the 106 activities of all agencies in Nevada, not just the BLM. Third, NVCRIS has never presumed to be 100% accurate. Checking the files of land managing agencies is a best practice that should always be conducted in conjunction with pre-field research.
- Also on Page 3-40: The document states that the National Register website (NRHP 2010) was checked. This data is known to be incomplete and does not include restricted archaeological sites. The best source for National Register data is the SHPO, but the EIS does not mention that these records were checked. It is concerning that this EIS seems to go out of its way to dismiss NVCRIS's data but completely omits a similarly detailed discussion on the NRHP database.
- Section 3.9: This document fails to mention that two National Historic Trails (congressional-designated significant national resources) run directly through this planning area. Both the Pony Express NHT and the California NHT both have a comprehensive management and use plan that can be found at this location: <http://www.nps.gov/cal/parkmgmt/upload/CALI-CMP-SM-updated.pdf>. This office also maintains a database of resources that must be considered in any planning document but are not necessarily present in either NVCRIS or in the National Register website. As with the comment above, had this office be consulted during the data collection stage of document preparation, we would have provided this information.
- There appears to be contradiction in the cultural resources environmental consequences section and the discussion of effects on cultural resources from the alternatives. On page 4-42 (section 4.8.3), the document states that common to all alternatives there will be either no effects or only negligible

Page 3-40a: Discussion of the NVCRIS has been corrected.

Page 3-40b: The discussion of the assessment of cultural resources has been amended to state just what databases were checked.

Section 3-9: An Objective and Action item has been added to the Cultural Resources Section in Chapter 2 Alternatives to address NHTs (Object CR 6 and Action CR 6.1). A map has been added depicting the NHT segments within the planning area (Fig 3-7). Additionally, NHTs are now addressed in Chap 3 and 4

Page 4-42: Livestock grazing would have no or only negligible effects on cultural resources, and was not included as a resource area. The impacts associated with each alternative are discussed in subsequent sections.

Comment Letter

Bob Edwards
July 25, 2013
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effects on cultural resources from livestock grazing. However, on page 4-45 (section 4.8.4) the document states that under Alternative A livestock grazing has an ongoing effect to cultural resources. Please explain this contradiction.

- On page 27 of Appendix A, the document states that a Programmatic Agreement is currently in development, in consultation with the SHPO and other parties, to address a phase d approach to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act compliance. While the SHPO agrees that this is an excellent goal, the SHPO has no record of any consultation with Bureau of Reclamation concerning this document. Please correct the record to state that this will occur in the future.
- Page 3-35 contains a small typo in the third paragraph. The word historic property is spelled with only one "h".

If you have any questions concerning this correspondence, please feel free to contact me at (775) 684-3443 or by e-mail at rlpalmer@shpo.nv.gov.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Lynn Palmer
Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Nevada State Clearinghouse.

Responses

Page 27: The commenter is correct. At the time the Draft Grazing Management Plan (GMP) was made available for public review, Reclamation had not yet begun consultation with SHPO on a grazing Programmatic Agreement. Reclamation will enter into consultation with SHPO prior to the finalization of the GMP.

Page 3-35: Typo has been corrected.

Comment Letter



STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

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Reno, Nevada 89512
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TONY WASLEY
Director

RICHARD L. HASKINS, II
Deputy Director

PATRICK O. CATES
Deputy Director

July 29, 2013

Bob Edwards
Bureau of Reclamation
705 N. Plaza Street, Room 320
Carson City NV 89701

Subject: Newlands Project Resource Management Plan

Mr. Edwards:

Thank you for providing the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) with the opportunity to comment on the Newlands Project Resource Management Plan (RMP). NDOW understands and supports multiple-use objectives on public rangelands with the hope that we can provide information and make recommendations that help guide this planning effort. Furthermore, it is our desire to ensure that habitat conservation measures for wildlife are incorporated into this planning document. As such, NDOW supports your efforts and offers the following preliminary recommendations for consideration and incorporation into the RMP. Our recommendations below are focused on discussion items in Table 2-1.

The RMP states, "**1.4.2 State and Local Regulation and Guidance** Nevada Wildlife Action Plan (June 2006)." We recommend revising to include the Nevada WAP revision 2012. Note that this new revision includes focal areas which represent the highest biodiversity of WAP Species of Conservation Priority (SoCP). The Carson Sink is considered a focal area and is worth discussing in the RMP.

Can we get maps of the areas described in "**Action B-MR 1.1. , Action B-MR 1.2. , Action B-MR 1.3. , Action B-MR 1.4., Action B-ED 1.1, Action B-ED 1.2.** "?

We recommend that energy development, geothermal, mineral resources, Right of Ways, etc be excluded from areas managed by NDOW (i.e. Fernley WMA and Carson Lake WMA) unless appropriate design features are incorporated that avoid, minimize and sufficiently offset project impacts and are agreed upon by NDOW, BOR and the project proponents.

The RMP states, "**Action B-MR 1.5.** The rights to locatable minerals could be acquired, but proposals for locatable mineral operations would include restrictions in flood zones or wildlife management areas." Is the Carson Lake Area that is managed by NDOW considered a "wildlife management area" by BOR standards? If not, we recommend specifically stating this here.

Responses

Paragraph 2: A citation for the new revision has been added to the subject section

(http://www.ndow.org/Nevada_Wildlife/Conservation/Nevada_Wildlife_Action_Plan/). The new revision has been considered in the formulation of the Proposed Plan and the revision of the EIS.

Paragraph 3: Specific maps have not been generated, but coordination with NDOW is ongoing.

Paragraph 4: The lands withdrawn for the Newlands Project were not withdrawn from Mineral Leasing activities such as geothermal leasing and development. Geothermal leasing and development is managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) under BLM rules and regulations. Reclamation does review and approve land surface stipulations. All geothermal development is subject to NEPA documentation completed by BLM. NDOW is given the opportunity to comment on all BLM NEPA documents.

Paragraph 5: Carson Lake Wildlife area is considered a wildlife management area.

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The RMP states, “**Objective B-MR 3.** Close abandoned mines.” and “**Action B-MR 3.1.** Identify and locate any abandoned mines.” We recommend including “close and identify abandoned mines in consultation with NDOW”. Mines may serve as important bat roost. We will work with BOR on appropriate “closures” such as utilizing bat gates.

The RMP states, “**Action B-FW 1.1.** Consider impacts on wildlife habitat when allowing activities and issuing use authorizations on Reclamation-administered lands.” We recommend rephrasing to include, “Consider impacts **and apply appropriate design features to avoid, minimize, and offset impacts to wildlife and habitat** when allowing activities...”

The RMP states, “**Action B-FW 1.4.** Develop management strategies/goals for key habitats.” and “**Action B-FW 1.2.** Inventory key habitats within the Newlands Project area (e.g., wetlands, riparian).” We recommend that BOR utilizes or tier’s to the Nevada WAP (2012) when developing strategies and goals and identifying key habitats.

The Lahontan Valley is a rich, diverse and biologically important area for birds as described in Chapter 3. As such, we recommend including a stand-alone fish and wildlife objective to protect and conserve this important bird habitat. For example, “Conserve and protect the Lahontan Valley IBA”.

We recommend including an objective to allow NDOW activities such as but not limited to introduction, re-establishment, release, transplant, exportation, augmentation, and rotenone treatment.

The RMP states, “**Objective A-SS 1.** Protect, conserve, and enhance habitat for special status species on Reclamation-administered lands.” We recommend including SoCP species as discussed in the WAP (2012).

The RMP states, “ **Action A-R 2.2.** Coordinate recreation management with NDOW at Fernley Wildlife Management Area. ” We recommend coordinating at Carson Lake as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate comment on the RMP. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Mark Freese
Supervisory Habitat Biologist

Cc:
Russelle Smith, Western Region Wildlife Management Area Supervisor

Responses

Paragraph 6: An Action item **Action B-MR 3.2.** has been added. “**Action B-MR 3.2.** Consult with NDOW prior to any abandoned mine closures to ensure protection of bat habitat.”

Paragraph 7: The suggested revision is too restrictive for a programmatic document such as a RMP. All projects approved by Reclamation are subject to NEPA documentation. Impacts are analyzed on a case-by-case basis. Minimizing impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat are dictated in project specific NEPA

Paragraph 8: A new Action Item has been inserted into the Proposed Alternatives. “**Action B-FW 1.2.1.** Consult with NDOW when inventorying key habitats within the Newlands Project area or developing management strategies/goals for key habitats.”

Paragraph 9: Chapter 3 describes the environment of the Lahontan Valley. Chapter 4 discusses the impacts of Reclamation’s Proposed Plan. While Reclamation often cooperates with other non-federal agencies’ and organizations’ goals and efforts, these goals and efforts are not federal actions and no decisions on them are being made through this RMP/EIS.

Paragraph 10: Permission to introduce, reestablish or augment a species on Reclamation withdrawn lands does not require a Plan amendment as is required by other Federal Agencies.

Paragraph 11: See response to comment Paragraph 9 above.

Comment Letter

Responses

Paragraph 12: Action 2.2 has been amended to include Carson Lake Pasture.



Office of the Churchill County Manager

July 26, 2013

Bob Edwards
Bureau of Reclamation
Lahontan Basin Area Office
705 N. Plaza Street, Room #320
Carson City, NV 89701

Re: Comments from Churchill County on the Newlands Project Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Edwards,

The following is a list of questions and comments for your consideration:

- 1. Consultation and collaboration: Two public scoping meetings and one collaborating agency meeting at the beginning of the process is inadequate for a Resource Management Plan and EIS, especially since the two prior meetings were held over six years ago. Lack of coordination raises concerns with proposed actions that state coordination will occur. (e.g. Transportation Access, Action B-TA 1.3. Coordinate with counties and communities on proposed new roads.....").
2. Selection and Description of the Alternatives: The alternatives and selection thereof is the "heart of the environmental impact statement." 40 C.F.R. 1502.14. This RMP/EIS presents three alternatives. In short, the three alternatives could be described as no action, complete conservation, and somewhere in the middle. The fallacy of the choice is that the alternative which falls in the middle will naturally be the agency preferred alternative. However, there are potentially an infinite number of combined agency actions that would fall in between no action and the conservation alternative. There is no discussion as to how the agency arrived at this action, but it is a false choice as any combination of actions in between no action and conservation would have been the agency preferred action. Further, it is not clear how the implementation of the agency preferred action would occur, so detailed comments are impossible. There is inadequate discussion of the management plans under the agency preferred alternative. For example:
• The Geology alternative indicates that the Bureau will "protect unique geological features, including hot springs and dunes." However, it is not clear that the Bureau has

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Email: countymanager@churchillcounty.org

Item 1: The RMP is considering policy level decisions. The coordination discussed by the commenter concerns implementation level action. The Proposed Action is to include the state and local entities in implementation level actions.

Item 2: RMPs and EISs are slightly different in their requirements. As they are done together, these different requirements can result in some confusion. In the RMP process, alternatives discussed in the Draft RMP represent the range of potential actions. In the Final RMP, the Proposed Plan involves the selection of individual goals, objectives, and actions from within this range. The Proposed Plan will have elements of each of the alternatives.

A source of confusion comes from the EIS requirement to identify a preferred alternative in the Draft EIS. In the combined RMP/EIS process this often results in the "middle of the road" alternative being identified as the preferred alternative, even when the agency may be potentially leaning toward individual goals or objectives within one of the other alternatives. The commenters' input on these individual goals, objectives, and actions is considered by Reclamation in formulating the Proposed Plan.

Item 2, Bullets 1 and 2: The RMP does not make decisions concerning individual features. Decisions about individual features would be made through the implementation level process. The commenter's concerns have been considered for clarification of the policy level decisions being made through this RMP. Implementation level decisions would go through

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the Reclamation NEPA process (e.g., categorical exclusion (CX), environmental assessment (EA), or EIS) as appropriate.

inventoried or identified these unique geological features. Further, it is difficult to comment on the specific action as it is unknown how the Bureau would protect the features. Will the Bureau close off the immediate surrounding area of the feature, or will the closure involve a much greater tract of public land? Does the presence of a geological feature justify the closure of a public road that is near the feature? These are questions which require a much more detailed discussion in the proposed agency action, that do not exist in the EIS. The lack of specificity in the preferred alternative could be addressed with an assurance from the Bureau that further agency action supported by an EIS **with public involvement** prior to the implementation of a specific policy or management action would take place.

- As it currently exists, the closure of areas around a yet to be identified geological feature, especially when alternatives may exist, regarding the closure or the size of the closure, have not been identified, and cannot be supported by this EIS.
 - On page 4-73, Alternative C “would explore the option of transferring land for conservation purposes,” and “retain lands for conservation purposes.” Which lands are being referred to and why weren’t the lands identified. Will there be another EA/EIS regarding land transfers?
 - Transportation access: Objective B-TA1 states “Reclamation would not provide exclusive public use of roads and trails, in accordance with 43 CFR, 429.31, and Reclamation D&S LND 08-01-(3)(F).” It appears that, to be consistent with 43 CFR, 429.31, this should read exclusive “private use” of roads and trails. Further, the RMP calls for the closure of unnecessary roads. It is unclear as to how the Bureau will identify, or what standard will be utilized to determine which roads are necessary. As previously stated, it becomes impossible to comment on this proposed agency action without knowing which roads and how many roads will be considered for closure. Action B-TA 2.2 provides that the Bureau will “coordinate with the county to legalize county roads on Reclamation easements.” The implication is that the County roads are not currently legal. There is no discussion in the document as to which County roads the Bureau has identified and considered not to be legal. Further, the RMP has not acknowledged the existing road agreement that the Bureau has with the County regarding certain public roads that exist concurrently with Bureau easements.
3. There is a lack of data and science to substantiate statements and recommended actions. For example:
- It is stated on page 4-76, “In the absence of quantitative data, best professional judgment based on scientific reasoning was used.” In dealing with issues such as grazing allotments and energy development, the Bureau should not restrict use of the land unless there is data to prove that the use is detrimental. Assumptions cannot be made that all livestock grazing and energy development have adverse effects. The statement in Table 2-1, Alternative C, page 2-28, “Restore a healthy balance to previously grazed areas” makes the assumption that grazing always results in an unhealthy balance, when this is not the case. There is no rangeland condition and trend data to support claims of adverse impacts.
 - There is no specific rangeland health (condition/trend) data included in the EIS. On page 20 of the grazing management plan, it states “No data are currently being collected.”

Item 2, Bullet 3: Action C-L 2.3 is to “Explore options for title transfer to appropriate entities for conservation purposes.” This Action was included in the Draft RMP/EIS as part of the range of alternative policies, not to document or decide on specific parcels of land. This action under Alternative C was not included in the Proposed Plan. If it had been included, the transfer of individual parcels of land would go through a site-specific NEPA process. The vast majority of the current Reclamation administered lands will return to the Public Lands domain under the management of the Bureau of Land Management. Any other lands that are proposed for sale under Reclamation’s disposal authority will be addressed in individual NEPA documents, which will allow for agency and individual comment.

Item 2, Bullet 4: Corrected. The RMP discusses the decision whether to consider closing roads to the public as a policy. The identification of roads would be the next step, if the decision were made to follow that policy. Individual roads and trails and the potential decisions about each would go through the Reclamation NEPA process (e.g., CX, EA, or EIS) as appropriate. Since there has been no previous RMP for these lands, there is no RMP level documentation supporting many of the Reclamation resource policies and practices. In these cases, this RMP is documenting the current policies and practices. The purpose of Action B-TA 2.2 is to continue the relationship with the county regarding county roads, ensure that all requirements (i.e., federal and county) are fulfilled and documented.

Comment Letter

Responses

Item 3, Bullet 1: Please refer to Appendix A the Draft GPM for the findings on Rangeland Health Land health standards were analyzed by an interdisciplinary team from the Forest Service TEAMS Enterprise Unit in 2009.

Item 3, Bullet 2: Please see response to Item 3, Bullet 1. In addition, all information has been uploaded to the website.

Comment Letter

How can recommendations and alternatives be developed without data?

(Note: There is no way to access data because in the EIS it states <<INSERT LINK HERE>> in several places and the link was not inserted.)

- There is no wildlife or plant species inventory data included in the EIS.
 - On pages 4-108, 4-109, 4-110, and 4-112, there are lists of inventories that need to be completed. Should this have been a part of the EIS so that recommendations have some validity and can be evaluated?
4. Lands to be relinquished: The U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service region 1, final Environmental Assessment (March 1996) for Transfer of Indian Lakes Area to Churchill County, Nevada under Public Law 101-618 is not referred to in the RMP/EIS and the subject properties are identified for relinquishment (T20N Range 29E Sections 12, 13,14,23,24,25& 26 and T20N R30E Sections 7,8,17,18,19,20,29 & 30). How will existing Agreements, such as this one, be addressed in the RMP? Will an EIS be completed to address the impacts of relinquishing lands from one agency to another? (Note: The hard copy of the EIS does not include any maps of specific data and the links are not in the EIS.)

The following table lists comments to specific sections:

Page	Comment
ES-9	Mineral resources. Under Alternatives B & C....”....minerals activity would be restricted in flood zones....” What are these flood zones?
1-2	Figure 1-1 – the shades of blue are too similar and cannot be distinguished. Other colors are needed for State of Nevada and Regional Park. What regional park? Churchill County’s?
1-4	What are the boundaries of the drainage basin that has runoff of 850,000 acre feet?
1-5	Derby Dam is east of Reno, not south.
2-3	2.3.2 Alternative A: Leases would be issued for a maximum of one year. Short term leases do not encourage permittees to invest in range improvements.
2-4	2.3.4 Alternative C: All grazing would be phased out. Why is that? It has been shown that grazing can be beneficial to rangelands if managed properly. What is the purpose of phasing out all grazing? Isn’t multi-use preferable to exclusionary use?
2-22	Table 2-1 Alternative B: Integrated weed management programs should also consider the use of goats, sheep, and cattle for weed control.
2-28	Table 2-1 Alternative C: “Restore a healthy balance to previously grazed areas.” Not all previously grazed areas are in poor health if the grazing was managed properly.
2-31	Table 2-1 Alternative B Action B-TA 1.2: ...”close unnecessary roads.” Will this restrict public access to Reclamation and/or BLM property?
3-15	3.6 Minerals Leasables: There is a geothermal plant at Salt Wells that is in production.
3-47	Mammals: There is no mention of wild horses and burros.
3-52	3.10.4 Invasive Species: New Zealand mudsnails have been identified in the Truckee River and should be included.
3-53	3.10.5 Trends: It should be clarified that the mercury is from previous mining operations, not agriculture.
3-60	Agricultural Lands: Acres in cultivation are more than 4,208
3-60	Grassland and Meadows: There are several different species of wheatgrass in the

Responses

Item 3, Bullet 3: Species inventory would take place during the implementation process. This process usually takes place in the first five years after the RMP is finalized. All inventories would be in consultation with NDOW.

Item 3, Bullet 4: Please see answer above. These inventories will take place during the implementation process.

Item 4: Relinquishment as used in this RMP means the ending of the current withdrawal of land from the public lands domain under management by Reclamation. The land would be returned to the public lands domain under the management of the Bureau of Land Management. This RMP discusses the relinquishment as reasonably foreseeable and discusses the efforts that would be undertaken to support the future decision-making (e.g., development of suitability criteria, identification of land parcels, inventories of existing facilities, etc.).

The transfer or disposal of land to entities other than BLM is also reasonably foreseeable. As with relinquishment, this RMP documents the efforts that would be undertaken to the potential transfers or disposals (e.g., solicitation of interest, identification of land parcels, inventories of existing facilities and environmental conditions, etc.). Any transfer or disposal would be documented through would go through the Reclamation NEPA process (e.g., CX, EA, or EIS) as appropriate.

Comment Letter

Responses

ES-9 Comment: Definition of flood zone has been added to Section 3.7 and the glossary. The definition used in this RMP is the FEMA mapped 100-year flood plain.

1-2 Comment: The various shades on the Figures are standard Department of Interior shading. The inclusion of the Regional Park in the legend is standard for DOI maps. There is no indication of a Regional Park existing in the Planning Area according DOI standards.

1-4 Comment: The number presented represents the entire average run off from both the Carson River and Truckee River basins.

2-3 Comment: Comment noted. Under the proposed grazing management plan, grazing leases would be issued for longer periods of time.

2-4 Comment: The RMP explores alternatives for Reclamation land management policies and practices. As support to grazing is not part of Reclamation's mission, this RMP evaluates the alternative of ending grazing on Reclamation administered lands. The Proposed Plan is not to phase out grazing, but to manage grazing per the Grazing Management Plan.

Comment Letter

	planning area also.
3-61	3.11.4 Invasive Species: Saltcedar and purple loosestrife should be added to the list.
3-79	Alternate Route 95 runs south in Lyon County from Fernley, but the road that goes from Silver Springs into Churchill County is U.S. Highway 50, not Alternate Route 50.
3-81	Electricity: There is also a geothermal plant at Salt Wells. Water: Churchill County adopted a (Final) Water Resources Plan in October 2003. Said Plan was updated in April 2007. The draft RMP/EIS refers to the Final "Draft" Plan... There are significant groundwater resources in Dixie Valley but currently these do not "provide" water to our community as is implied in the RMP/EIS.
3-93	Largest employers in Churchill County: Should say Churchill County, not Churchill County Comptroller.
4-30	Assumptions: "Reclamation would retain water rights and protect riparian zones and wetlands." According to page 1-1 of the Introduction, "Reclamation possesses state permits to store water in its reservoirs but does not own any water rights in the Newlands Project." So how will they retain them? Will they acquire water rights?

If you have any questions or need clarification on any of the above please contact me or Associate Planner Terri Pereira at (775) 423-7627.

Sincerely,



Eleanor Lockwood
County Manager

Responses

2-22 Comment: Action B-IS 1.1 includes "biological" methods of weed control. Goats, sheep and cattle would fall into that category.

2-28 Comment: Comment noted. This is the purpose of the Grazing Management Plan. To ensure a healthy well managed rangeland going into the future.

2-31 Comment: The RMP discusses the decision whether to consider closing roads to the public as a policy. The identification of roads would be the next step, if the decision were made to follow that policy. Individual road closures and access decisions would go through the Reclamation NEPA process (e.g., CX, EA, or EIS) as appropriate.

3-15 Comment: The Salt Wells Geothermal Plant is outside of the Planning Area.

3-47 Comment: Wild Horse and Burros (WH&B) are not considered wildlife. Also, Reclamation lands are considered "Horse Free." Any Wild Horses or Burros discovered on Reclamation lands would be relocated back to BLM Horse Areas

3-52 Comment: Mud Snails were included in the discussion of invasive species.

3-53 Comment: It is the purpose of this section to identify the existing environmental conditions. It is not the purpose of the RMP/EIS to identify the source of the mercury but to note the presence of mercury in the environment.

Comment Letter

Responses

3-60 Comment 1: Corrected.

3-60 Comment 2: Wheatgrass has been added to the discussion.

3-61 Comment: Saltceder and purple loosestrife have been added to the discussion.

3-79 Comment: Corrected

3-81 Comment: Corrected

3-93 Comment: Corrected

4-30 Comment: Assumption has been corrected.



Truckee-Carson Irrigation District

Newlands Project

RECEIVED

JUL 17 2013

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lahontan Basin Area Office

July 16, 2013

Mr. Kenneth Parr
Bureau of Reclamation
Lahontan Basin Area Office
705 N. Plaza St., Room 320
Carson City, NV 89701

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Rusty D. Jardine, Esq., District Manager &
General Counsel

Re: Grazing and Newlands Federal Reclamation Project Public Policy

Dear Kenneth:

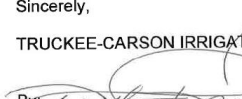
Of present concern to the District is the issue of the reduction or elimination of the practice of grazing upon lands withdrawn for Newland's Project Use. Historically, grazing has been an important Project related use. Moreover, we believe that the practice was originally contemplated as a means of subsidizing Project operation and maintenance. While the scope of the practice has become increasingly limited, its importance to individual producers remains.

As Reclamation moves toward the elimination or reduction of grazing on withdrawn lands, we ask, subject to approval by the Board of Directors, that the District be permitted to undertake additional management of the same. The District's has a need for revenues from any source with which to sustain Project purposes.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

TRUCKEE-CARSON IRRIGATION DISTRICT

By: 
Rusty D. Jardine, Esq.
District Manager

File Code	LND-6.00
Project	29
Control No	13033115
Folder ID	1235236

CODE	PERSON	INITIAL & DATE
100	*	7/17/13
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110	DP	7/17/13
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2666 Harrigan Road, P.O. Box 1356, Fallon, Nevada 89407-1356
Phone: (775) 423-2141 FAX: (775) 423-5354

The RMP explores alternatives for Reclamation land management policies and practices. As support of grazing is not part of Reclamation's mission, this RMP evaluates the alternative of ending grazing on Reclamation administered lands. The Proposed Plan is not to phase out grazing, but to manage grazing per the Grazing Management Plan. A determination to allow the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District to assume administration of the grazing program is outside of the scope of this RMP.

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Truckee-Carson Irrigation District

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JUL 29 2013

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lehontan Basin Area Office

Newlands Project

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Joe Gomez, Director
Wade Workman, Director

Rusty D. Justice, Esq., District Manager & General Counsel

July 29, 2013

SENT VIA FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION TO (775) 882-7592
AND VIA E-MAIL TO redwards@usbr.gov

Robert Edwards
RMP Project Manager
Bureau of Reclamation
705 N. Plaza Street, Room 320
Carson City, Nevada 89701

RE: Comments to Newlands Project Draft Resource management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (Draft)

Dear Bob:

Pursuant to notice previously given us in the above-captioned matter, this letter will serve to provide our written comments to the draft resource management plan (RMP) and environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Newlands Project Planning Area as depicted in figure ES-1 of the draft.

We extend to you our appreciation for this undertaking. Naturally, anything to do with the Project is important to us –including the use of federal lands administered by Reclamation which are, or may be, deemed "ancillary to the primary purpose of providing water for irrigation." (See Draft, p. ES-1). The District enjoys a long history associated with grazing; and, we view the practice as important to our Project success.

As you know, on December 18, 1926, the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District entered into a contract with the United States for the operation and maintenance of the Newlands Federal Reclamation Project. That contract provided, *inter alia*, for the fixing of the District's repayment obligation assumed from individual water rights contract holders. The contract further allowed, we think, the District to benefit from the provisions of the recently enacted Omnibus Adjustment Act of 1926 (44 Stat. 636) including the deduction of certain costs from repayment obligations associated with the Project. In 1938, Congress modified the allocation of miscellaneous revenues with enactment of the Hayden-O'Maheny Amendment to the Interior Department Appropriation Act of 1939. This Act eliminated the practice of "front-end" credits to annual obligations as established by the Fact Finders Act of 1924 (43 Stat. 701) – except where provision had been made by law or contract for the benefit of water users from the Project.

2666 Harrigan Road, P.O. Box 1356, Fallon, Nevada 89407-1356

Comments to Newlands Project Draft Resource management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (Draft)
Page 2

In 1996 the District and Reclamation entered in the present contract. (No. 7-07-20-X0348). We construe the contract to preserve the provisions of Subsection I of the Fact Finders Act, in which the total accumulated net profits, as determined by the Secretary, "derived from the operation of Project power plants, leasing of Project grazing and agricultural lands, and the sale or use of town sites shall first be credited toward the construction charges associated with the Project, if any." (See Contract No. 7-07-20-XO348, Article 7, p. 9). "Thereafter, the net profits from such sources may be used by the water users for Project Operation and Maintenance charges, and any remaining funds may be spent as the water users may direct." *Id.*

Pursuant to the Draft, we understand that one of the planning issues is that of "[h]ow Reclamation [will] manage grazing, particularly in Harmon pasture?". (Draft at ES-4). Management alternatives were developed to address the major planning issues. These alternatives include: 1. No action (Alternative A –Continue Current Management); 2. Alternative B (Agency Preferred – Consisting of balanced management resource uses with management of natural and cultural resources; and, 3. Alternative C (Conservation). (See Draft, pgs. ES-6, 7). The agency preferred alternative includes a Grazing Management Plan which is intended to "be developed with public input to balance grazing with restoration of land health in grazing areas. *Id.* at p. ES-6. Ostensibly, the plan will provide for decision criteria governing most every facet of grazing on public lands, including, without limitation, boundaries, lease terms, conditions, fees, drought management, and the sustainability of rangeland health and protection of sensitive habitat. (See Draft, p. ES-7). Alternative A purports to implement a custodial type of management which is the least restrictive to livestock grazing. (See Draft, p. ES-12). Alternative B touts a "more flexible grazing plan . . . to ensure a healthy and sustainable rangeland system, considering annual adjustments in such aspects as season of use, area available for grazing, carrying capacity." *Id.* at ES-13. This alternative specifically contemplates "implementation of use authorization fees, [made] in accordance with the grazing management plan, [which] could change the cost to lease holders. *Id.* Important to us is the fact that the "plan would likely reduce the overall number of lease holders, the area available for grazing, and the number of livestock." *Id.* More drastic, even, Alternative C would phase out and eliminate grazing on Reclamation-administered lands within two (2) years. *Id.*

In consideration of "Socioeconomic and Environmental Justice" related concerns, the Draft informs us that Alternative A proposes the lowest level of restriction and would, therefore, "be the least likely of the alternatives to increase economic contribution of resource uses." *Id.* at ES-16. Alternative B retains grazing; but, less land would be made available to grazers. *Id.* Costs would increase. *Id.* And, again, under Alternative C, grazing would be eliminated. *Id.*

The "Draft Grazing Management Plan Lahontan Basin Area Office" for the Newland Project (Draft Plan), accompanying the Draft Newlands Project Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, provides among other things, as part of the "long-term strategy", a determination as to what lands will be retained for Newlands Project Purposes through internal review." (See Plan, p. 4). The plan contemplates that a new fee structure

Comment Letter

JUL/29/2013/MON 01:46 PM TRUCKEECARSONIRRIGAT FAX No. 17754235354 P. 004

Comments to Newlands Project Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (Draft)
Page 3

will be phased in within one year of implementation of the Plan. *Id.* at p. 5. A new fee structure and other conditions are to be implemented by 2014. *Id.* Pastures to be "relinquished" within the Newlands Project total twenty one (21) of the thirty eight (38) identified in present use. *Id.* at p. 6. The total acreage for all pastures is 189,636. *Id.* The total acreage of all pastures to be relinquished is 152,202. *Id.* at p. 8. This is an extraordinary reduction in the scope of grazing lands.

COMMENT ONE (1)

The District has a long-standing contractual relationship in the operation and maintenance of the Newlands Federal Reclamation Project. Past and present contractual and statutory obligations flowing to and from Reclamation, for the benefit of the Project, include the use of Subsection I revenues, having first been ascribed to construction charges, to be applied for Project operation and maintenance—as the water users may direct. (See Contract, Article 7, p. 9). The preferred Alternative virtually vitiates Newlands Project related grazing and renders nugatory the promise and expectation of the Contract for the use of grazing monies for operation and maintenance. Alternative C provides death by lethal injection to grazing practice.

COMMENT TWO (2)

Grazing is of historical and significant value to the Newlands Project. We do not believe that the answer is to limit its use such so as to virtually forego its benefit or to eliminate it in its entirety. A variation of present management must be explored, while striving to maintain land health in grazing areas.

COMMENT THREE (3)

The District, by Agreement had with Reclamation presently manages the Carson Lake and Pasture—the object of transfer to the State of Nevada. In view of present and past grazing management experience, alternatives expanding present practice must be considered, allowing the District to assume direct management of grazing lands for the benefit of the Newlands Project.

COMMENT FOUR (4)

Reclamation, perhaps better than anybody else, knows the funding mechanism of the District under Chapter 539 of the Nevada Revised Statutes (Irrigation Districts). We rely primarily upon assessments upon Project lands, specifically and generally, and upon hydro-electric generation revenues to sustain Project operation and maintenance. Every dollar counts! We have the oldest Reclamation facilities in the United States—including Derby Dam. Ours is, then, the most aged of aging infrastructure. How will we now abandon any possible revenue source upon which we may rely?

2666 Harrigan Road, P.O. Box 1356, Fallon, Nevada 89407-1356

Responses

Comment 1: The RMP explores alternatives for Reclamation land management policies and practices. As support to grazing is not part of Reclamation's mission, this RMP evaluates the alternative of ending grazing on Reclamation administered lands. The Proposed Plan is not to phase out grazing, but to manage grazing per the Grazing Management Plan (GMP).

Comment 2: See response above.

Comment 3: Allowing the District to resume management of the grazing on Project lands is outside of the scope of this RMP. Allowing the District to manage the grazing program is contrary to Reclamation Policy and current Directives and Standards.

Comment 4: The District realizes revenue from the grazing program through Subsection I credits. Under current conditions the Subsection I revenues are net proceeds after Reclamation accounts for the cost to administer the program. Under the new GMP, the administration costs will be paid by the grazing permittees in addition to a grazing use fee. All of the use fee will be credited to the district as Subsection I revenue.

Comment Letter

Responses

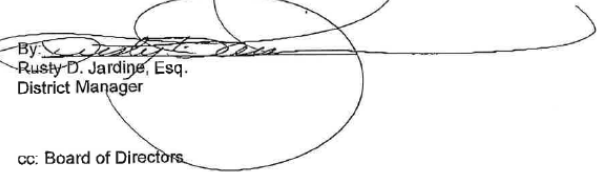
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Comments to Newlands Project Draft Resource management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (Draft)
Page 4

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. We look forward to the institution of practices that sustain the promise of the existing Contract while doing honor to the health of lands within in the Project.

Sincerely,

TRUCKEE-CARSON IRRIGATION DISTRICT

By 
Rusty D. Jardine, Esq.
District Manager

cc: Board of Directors

File Code	LND-6.00
Project	29
Control No	13035366
Folder ID	1235236

2666 Harrigan Road, P.O. Box 1356, Fallon, Nevada 89407-1356

Bob Edwards
Bureau of Reclamation
Lahontan Basin Area Office
705 N. Plaza Street, Room #320
Carson City, NV 89701

In effect, the three alternatives never allow for less rules for the land, but begin with the current list (Alt A) then increase the various rules through Alt B, to the point of very little public use in Alt C. Alternate C would reduce all uses of the land; eliminate grazing, mining, and off-road vehicle use. Public access would be denied

Alternative C (Conservation)

Alternative C deemphasizes recreation, access, and mineral and energy development goals in favor of natural resource values... Off Road vehicle (ORV) use would be completely prohibited on Reclamation-administered lands... all grazing on Reclamation-administered lands would be phased out and eliminated within two years. (ES-7)

Alt C recommends the greatest area of restrictions to protect other resources, and could increase the costs of minerals and energy development to avoid restricted areas. The result could be fewer mineral and energy operations and jobs generated on planning area lands than under the other alternatives and a lower contribution to the local economy. (ES-16)

Below are a few highlights of the Executive Summary report dated May 2013.

- This RMP only addresses the use of Newlands Project **lands**. (ES-1)
- The Truckee-Carson Irrigation District (TCID) does not manage **lands**. (ES-1)
- A Comprehensive Recreation Management Plan for Lahontan Reservoir will be prepared by Nevada State Parks within five years of the completion of this RMP. (ES-3)
- The purpose of the Newlands Project RMP is to provide a single, comprehensive land use plan that will guide contemporary resource needs of the federal lands administered by Reclamation in the Newlands Project planning area. The RMP will help support the Project's authorized purposes: water supply, recreation, water quality, support of fish and wildlife, and any other purposes recognized as beneficial under the laws of Nevada. (ES-3)
- The RMP is needed because no unifying management plan exists to guide Reclamation in achieving the demands listed. (ES-4)
- Public involvement came in the involvement of soliciting public input to the scoping meeting in Reno and Fallon in September 2007. (ES-5)
- Pg 3-87 under 3.18.2 Land-Based Recreation it states that, "ORV use is restricted on all Reclamation-administered lands but exist illegally." According to my understanding Off-Road-Vehicles are NOT allowed on any BOR lands. With the additional removal of grazing and further elimination of ORV this will make it more difficult for ranchers to be able to work with herds if they are not allowed to use vehicles on the land.
- GMP = Grazing Management Plan
- One of the long-term management strategies for grazing administration on retained Newlands Project lands that: "minimizes financial and social impacts to the agricultural

Alternative A is nominally the conditions and policies currently existing within the planning area. Many of those policies are being changed through agency wide directives. The RMP assesses different ways to achieve compliance with those directives. Not complying with those directives, or "less rules," is not within the power of the Lahontan Basin Area Office, or within the scope of this RMP.

General Comments: The lands in the planning area that are managed by the Bureau of Reclamation are withdrawn lands. Lands withdrawn from the public lands domain for a reclamation project or other use are not public lands and are not subject to the same multiple use mandates for those federal lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. This also applies to those federal lands withdrawn for military purposes. Therefore, Reclamation managed withdrawn lands are, in fact, closed to un-restricted un-permitted recreation or travel. This includes the operation of Off Road Vehicles (ORV) or any other mechanical device including automobiles, trucks or motorcycles. This is the prime reason that Reclamation is proposing that the un-needed withdrawn lands be returned to the public lands domain to be managed by BLM as multiple use lands.

The commenter suggests that the prohibition of off road travel impacts those issued a grazing permit under the Reclamation Directives and Standards. This assumption is incorrect. The grazing permittees would be allowed to manage their herds using ORVs or other motorized vehicle if they requested to use

Comment Letter

Responses

this equipment and the permission was granted in the grazing permit.

Comment Letter

community.” (pg 1 grazing management plan (GMP)).

- It also states that, “Most of the pastures currently being grazed are being considered for disposal or relinquishment.” (Pg 1 GMP)
- Total pastures within the Newlands Project total acres are 189,636. (pg 6 GMP)
- Total pastures to be relinquished in total acres are 152,202 (Pg 8 GMP)
- Total pastures to be retained in total acres are 37,434 (Pg 9 GMP)

- There are a few places where it states to “[insert link here](#)” to various reports, but they did not provide the link to the study being cited. (pg 20 & 22 GMP)

- The report stated that approximately two-thirds (2/3) of the planning area lands are federally owned....**Most of the planning area is in Churchill County, Nevada** (pg 3-65).

Grazing lease costs would be changed along with AUM numbers. A monitoring plan would be implemented to decide if additional changes are needed in the future. The report is very vague except where they list the areas that will be eliminated from grazing.

“Public involvement came in the involvement of soliciting public input to the scoping meeting in Reno and Fallon in September 2007 (ES-5).” This conversation and public meetings began in Sept 2007. After talking with our County Manager, Churchill County has not been part of most of these conversations since then yet most of the land in the project is in Churchill County.

Alternative B appears to be very vague in what are the Bureau’s plans of action. A description of management alternatives is in a spreadsheet format under section 2 starting on page 2-7 through 2-38.

- The questions raised on page 1-20, 21 were they addressed? Is there any way that we could have these questions asked with a reference to where they are answered? An example of the questions is: How can Reclamations’ Newlands Project RMP support local economies? How will Reclamation address its “Checkerboard” lands in the project planning area? A footnote of the section or page that these questions are answered would be very helpful.

A map describing each area that is under BOR jurisdiction along with a map showing what areas that are being proposed to relinquishment so that a person could look at an area such as the Indian Lakes area, then another map showing what is proposed to change. Specific areas are hard to identify. (Did receive a web-link from Jennifer Birri showing where to go on the BOR web-site for additional maps, but these should be included within the report along with the tables explaining what areas are changing.

3-35 typo historical should be historical in the third paragraph.

Section 3.10 on fish and wildlife did not address wild horses and burros and their effects on the region.

Table 3.19-3 shows data from 1990 thru 2010 but the table says 2000 on page 3-91. (Similar issue on Table 3.19-4 same page.) These tables along with the data should be updated since we

Responses

Churchill County was included in the early scoping and discussions on this RMP. The previous County Manager was consulted on a regular basis during regular County/Reclamation coordination meetings between himself and Reclamation management.

The spreadsheet format is the standard for listing and describing management alternatives.

The questions listed in Chapter 1 are a list of issues raised during the scoping process. It is not necessary to answer all questions nor is it sometimes possible. Some questions raised are outside of the scope of the proposed RMP

The answer as to the management of the “Checkerboard Lands” Under all alternatives, Reclamation seeks to simplify the management of the Newlands project and retain lands being used for project purposes. The strategy, depending on the alternative, is to relinquish some of the checkerboard lands to the BLM

The publishing of a document in a book format does not allow for including large maps in the publication. This is the reason a link is provided to view the maps.

Page 3-35: Section Corrected

Section 3-10: Wild Horse and Burros (WH&B) are not considered wildlife. Also, Reclamation lands are considered “Horse Free”. Any Wild Horses or Burros discovered on

Comment Letter

Responses

Reclamation lands would be relocated back to BLM Horse Areas

Table 3.19-3: The table has been updated.

Comment Letter

are in 2013 and the 2010 figures have been completed and verified. This would show a clearer picture of things not just estimates from years ago.

Page 3-92 notes Churchill County Master plan 2005, but a 2010 version has been completed and adopted. (It would also be helpful to have a reference page.)

Page 3-93 lists the Churchill County Comptroller as one of the highest employers within the county, (Remove Comptroller). Page 3-96 also listed Washoe County Comptroller as one of the highest employers in Washoe County, (remove Comptroller).

Page 4-5, Section 4.2 Air Resources states in the first paragraph that, “the source of carbon monoxide is burning wood in residential stoves and fireplaces and the main source of particulate matter is construction and travel on unpaved roads.” Do you have data to support that? I don’t think that stoves and dirt roads in Washoe County are the cause of their air quality issues.

Page 4-27 mentions an NSO stipulation on the third paragraph of 4.5.6. What is an NSO stipulation? This abbreviation was not in the list at the front of this document. Page 2-8 states it will close areas to mineral development, page 4-27 states that it will be more restrictive and at a higher cost.

Page 4-76, section 4.10.2 has a list of reasons why invasive species take over or out compete native vegetation, (list starts at the bottom of the page and continues onto the next page), but there was no mention of wildfires which allow great opportunities for invasive species. Page 4-78 does make mention of this, it should be on the list from page 4-76 also.

Page 4-88 the fourth paragraph mentioned an alternative D. There is not a “D” alternative.

Page 4-103 Alternative C mentioned the eventual phase out of Grazing but I do not remember seeing a timeline for this. How long from the beginning of the plan being implemented until all grazing is eliminated?

Page 4-114 deals with energy development including right-of-ways; recently the Nevada Legislature adopted AB239 which requires Counties and Cities to create overhead utility corridors. AB239 will have an effect on the city of Fallon along with Churchill County and the need to create these corridors which will cross through Reclamation lands.

Page 4-141 Section 4.17 utilities needs to address the recent passage of AB239 and the construction of an overhead utility corridor within Fallon and Churchill County. Transmission lines were not address in this section.

Page 4-181 first paragraph, discusses many large mammals but Burros and Wild horses were not mentioned. Also, the paragraph starting with Salt Wells should be updated to where it currently stands not how it stood a few years ago.

Page 4-181 through 4-183 have many of these projects which have been completed or changed and should be updated to current. Each county, or BLM, could provide updated information

Responses

Page 3-29: Corrected

Page 3-92: Corrected

Page 4-5: Discussion of carbon monoxide has been deleted. The document now reads “Activities within the planning area that can contribute to the PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ levels include vehicle travel on unpaved roads and farming activities on cropland”.

Page 4-27: NSO is No Surface Occupancy: Use or occupancy of the land surface for fluid mineral exploration or development and surface-disturbing activities is prohibited to protect identified resource values. Areas identified as NSO/No Surface-disturbing Activities are open to oil and gas leasing, but surface-disturbing activities cannot be conducted on the surface of the land. This has been added to the glossary.

Page 4-76: Information has been added.

Page 4-88: Corrected.

Page 4-103: If that alternative was selected all grazing would be phased out in 2 years. See Alternative Action C-LG 1.3.

Page 4-114: In 2008, the Departments of Energy, Interior and Agriculture jointly completed the West Wide Energy Corridor Programmatic EIS. The Energy Corridors identified in that EIS are the only corridors that currently affect Reclamation withdrawn lands. Reclamation will participate in the County corridor planning effort if invited.

Comment Letter

Responses

Page 4-141: AB 239 is a State law and does not apply to federal lands. However, as stated above, Reclamation will participate in any planning effort if invited. Rights of way for transmission lines are addressed on a case-by-case basis. Objective A-L 1. allows for the issuance of use authorizations (rights of way).

Page 4-181a: See response to comment on page 3-10 above regarding wild horse and burros.

Confusion exists with the term of Salt Wells. The existing Salt Wells geothermal plant is outside of the Planning Area. The Salt Wells projects that were analyzed in a recent BLM EIS are within the Planning Area. Some testing has been completed but there are currently no plans for development.

Page 4-181b: The projects have been updated.

Comment Letter

Responses

concerning the projects in their area.

Chapter 6 References: Does not list anything from Fernley. They have many miles of Newlands project within their jurisdiction and should be included in this plan.

Glossary section: Fernley should also be listed in the Glossary similar to Fallon which is listed well over 30 times.

Thank you,

Michael K Johnson

Comment Letter

Responses

Chapter 6: The reference section includes the Lyon County Master Plan. No adopted plans from the city of Fernley were used in the creation of this RMP. The Newlands Project facilities in the City of Fernley are primarily water delivery or drainage features. These features are not within the scope of this RMP.

Glossary: Fernley has been added to the Index.

Comment Letter

Responses

6-18-13

Fallen

I would like to request that the time period for our comments on GMP, be extended through Aug. My Father is Larry Kyte and we run cattle at Sheckler.

Thank you
Michele Kyte

Reclamation has considered the request for extension of the comment period and has determined not to extend the comment period.

The commenter/requestor was notified via the U.S. Mail that Reclamation would not be able to extend the comment period.

Comment Letter

Responses

Fallon

Comment Form
Draft Resource Management Plan
Draft Newlands Project Grazing Program

Your input is important. You may use this sheet to submit written comments concerning any substantive issue that you believe should be addressed in the environmental review. Please be sure to provide your name and address, below.*

*The purchase of Heter Road - Indian Lake
 allotment is a deal that we have been
 wanting to accomplish for 30+ yrs. It is
 land-locked by our private ground and
 would be very inconvenient for a developer to
 make it urban.*

Additional space? Please use other side.

Name*

Dan Wolf

Address

City/State/Zip Code

*Comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, will be made available for public review. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Please submit your comments in person or send your comments to:

Bob Edwards
 Bureau of Reclamation
 Lahontan Basin Area Office
 705 N. Plaza Street, Room #320
 Carson City, NV 89701
 or
 via e-mail to: redwards@usbr.gov
 or
 Fax 775-882-7592, attn: Bob Edwards

To ensure that they are properly considered, your
comments must be received by July 29, 2013.

Other than the potential relinquishing of the withdrawn land to the Bureau of Land Management, the scope of the EIS does not include any land transfers or sales.

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