

television, musical instrument, or other noise producing device, or motorized equipment, between the hours of 12 A.M. and 6 A.M. in a manner that makes unreasonable noise that disturbs other visitors; or operate or use a public address system without written authorization from the Field Office Manager.

d. Persons using the area will be subject to a user fee.

e. You must not enter, camp, park, or stay longer than one half hour within the Sand Mountain Recreation Area without properly paying required fees.

f. Reserving of camping spaces is prohibited; sites are allocated on a first come first serve basis.

### Sec. 3 Prohibited Acts

You must not:

a. Operate a motorized vehicle in the Recreation Area without the attached safety flag as described under Sec. 1 a. of these supplementary rules;

b. Operate a motorized vehicle in excess of the posted speed limit;

c. Drink an alcoholic beverage, or have in your possession or on your person any open container that contains an alcoholic beverage, while operating in or on a motorized vehicle;

d. Camp outside the designated camping area described in Sec. 2 a. of these supplementary rules;

e. Discharge any firearms, fireworks, or projectiles;

f. Make any unreasonable noise that disturbs other visitors between the hours of 12 A.M. and 6 A.M. as described in Sec. 2 c. of these supplementary rules;

g. Possess or use any glass cup or bottle, empty or not, used for carrying any liquid for drinking purposes outside of enclosed vehicles, or camp trailers.

h. Bring in, dispose of or possess any firewood containing nails, screws, or other metal hardware.

i. Dump gray or wastewater at the Recreation Area directly from a vehicle or trailer. You must empty water and sewage tanks only at legal dumping stations. (The nearest one is presently located in Fallon.)

j. Use Sand Mountain Recreation Area without paying the user fee.

k. Keep animals not on a leash or tied. Animals must be kept on a leash not longer than six feet, whether held by hand or secured to a fixed object, or otherwise physically restricted at all times.

l. Freely roll down the dunes any object that creates a hazard to other users.

### Sec. 4 Penalties

Under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C.

1733(a)), any person failing to comply with the supplemental rules provided in the notice may be subject to imprisonment for not more than 12 months, or a fine in accordance with the applicable provisions of 18 U.S.C. 3571, other penalties in accordance with 43 U.S.C. 1733, or both.

### Sec. 5 Administrative and Emergency Use

These supplementary rules do not apply to emergency or law enforcement personnel, or BLM employees engaged in the performance of their official duties.

### Supplementary Rules for the Walker Lake Recreation Area

#### Sec. 1 Motor Vehicle Rules

a. No person shall operate any motorized vehicle in excess of 25 mph on any maintained road within the Recreation Area, or in excess of 15 mph within any designated camping area.

b. No person shall drink an alcoholic beverage, or have in their possession or on their person any open container that contains an alcoholic beverage, while operating in or on a motorized vehicle.

#### Sec. 2 Developed Recreation Site

The following lands are designated as the developed recreation site as defined in 43 CFR 8360.0-5(c): all public land east of U.S. Route 95 to Walker Lake within—

#### Mt. Diablo Meridian

T. 10 N., R 29 E.,

Sec. 29;

Sec. 32;

Rules stated in 43 CFR 8365.2 apply to this area.

#### Sec. 3 Other Restrictions on Recreation Use

No person shall operate or use any audio equipment, such as a radio, television, musical instrument, or other noise producing device, or motorized equipment, between the hours of 12 A.M. and 6 A.M. in a manner that makes unreasonable noise that disturbs other visitors; or operate or use a public address system without written authorization from the Field Office Manager.

#### Sec. 4 Prohibited Acts

You must not:

a. Operate a motorized vehicle in excess of the posted speed limit;

b. Drink an alcoholic beverage, or have in your possession or on your person any open container that contains an alcoholic beverage, while operating in or on a motorized vehicle;

c. Discharge any firearms, fireworks, or projectiles.

d. Make any unreasonable noise that disturbs other visitors between the hours of 12 A.M. and 6 A.M. as described in Sec. 2 c. of these supplementary rules.

e. Possess or use any glass cup or bottle, empty or not, used for carrying any liquid for drinking purposes outside of enclosed vehicles, or camp trailers.

f. Bring in, dispose of or possess any firewood containing nails, screws, and other metal hardware.

g. Dump gray or wastewater at Walker Lake Recreation Area directly from a vehicle or trailer. You must empty water and sewage tanks only at legal dumping stations. (The nearest one is presently located in Hawthorne.)

h. Keep animals not on a leash or tied. Animals must be kept on a leash not longer than six feet, whether hand held or secured to a fixed object, or otherwise physically restricted at all times.

### Sec. 5 Penalties

Under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1733(a)), any person failing to comply with the supplemental rules provided in the notice may be subject to imprisonment for not more than 12 months, or a fine in accordance with the applicable provisions of 18 U.S.C. 3571, other penalties in accordance with 43 U.S.C. 1733, or both.

### Sec. 6 Administrative and Emergency Use

These supplementary rules do not apply to emergency or law enforcement personnel, or BLM employees engaged in the performance of their official duties.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

[NV-012 4700]

### Notice of Intent To Prepare a Wild Horse Management Amendment to the Elko Resource Management Plan and Associated Environmental Assessment

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare a Wild Horse Management Amendment to the Elko Resource Management Plan (RMP) and associated environmental assessment (EA).

**SUMMARY:** This document provides notice that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Elko Field Office intends to prepare a Wild Horse Management Amendment to the Elko Resource Management Plan (1987) and

an associated Environmental Assessment to address current issues for four wild horse herd areas (HAs) (Diamond Hills, Little Humboldt, Owyhee, and Rock Creek) in the Elko RMP planning area. The RMP planning area is comprised of approximately 6 million acres of land in northeastern Nevada, of which the BLM administers over 3 million acres. The four HAs are all located in Elko County, NV. They comprise approximately 657,000 acres, of which about 92 percent are public lands. Decisions to be made by the RMP Amendment include designation of "herd management areas" on public lands within these HAs where wild horses can be managed in the long term. The BLM will work collaboratively with interested parties to make decisions best suited to local, regional, state and national needs and concerns for the management of wild horses.

**DATES:** This notice initiates the public scoping process. Comments on issues and planning criteria can be submitted in writing to the address listed below and will be accepted within 30 days following publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. The public is also invited to participate in any of three public meetings to discuss the scope of the proposed amendment and environmental assessment. All public meetings will be announced through local news media, newsletters, and the BLM Web site at least 15 days prior to the event. Meetings will be held in Elko, NV; Eureka, NV; and Reno, NV.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments for this planning effort may be submitted to BLM at any of the scoping meetings; in addition, comments can be submitted in person to the BLM's Elko Field Office, 3900 Idaho Street, Elko, Nevada, 89801. Comments may also be submitted via facsimile to 775-753-0255. Please address your comments to the attention of Bryan Fuell, Wild Horse Specialist. Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the BLM Elko Field Office (see address above). Preliminary scoping information will also be available at each of the scoping meetings, and may be obtained by visiting the Elko Field Office Web site at <http://www.nv.blm.gov/elko>. If you wish to withhold your name and/or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from an organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of

organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** For further information and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact Bryan Fuell, Wild Horse Specialist, Bureau of Land Management, Elko Field Office, 3900 Idaho Street, Elko, Nevada 89801; telephone (775) 753-0200.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** HAs are limited to areas of public lands identified as habitat used by wild horses at time of the passage of the Wild Horse and Burro Act in 1971. The Elko RMP (1987) established four wild horse HAs (Diamond Hills, Little Humboldt, Rock Creek, Owyhee) with the objective to manage the wild horse populations and habitat in these areas consistent with other resource uses. Short- and long-term management actions prescribed by the 1987 RMP are to: (1) Manage the four herds at an appropriate management level; (2) monitor wild horse populations and habitat conditions; and (3) conduct wild horse gatherings as needed to maintain numbers. Since completion of the Elko RMP, monitoring of wild horse populations and habitat and completion of wild horse gatherings have occurred.

Approximately 657,000 acres make up the four HAs, of which 53,000 acres are privately owned lands. The Diamond Hills HA is in the southwest corner of the Elko RMP planning area. Due to its proximity to other wild horse HMAs managed by the Ely and Battle Mountain field offices of the BLM, this HA is often referred to as "Diamond Hills North." The Little Humboldt, Rock Creek and Owyhee HAs are in the northwest portion of the planning area, and are next to HMAs that are administered by BLM's Winnemucca Field Office. The 1971 Wild Horse and Burro Act requires removal of wild horses from unfenced private land when requested by the private landowner. Verbal requests have been made to alleviate problems with wild horses on private land within the Rock Creek and Little Humboldt HAs.

The proposed Amendment would designate HMAs, which are established only on areas within HAs which wild horses can be managed for the long term. BLM planning regulations (43 CFR 1610) require preparation of planning issues and criteria to guide amendments or revisions of RMPs. A planning issue is a matter of controversy over a resource management topic that is well defined, about which a decision can be made and is within the BLM's authority and jurisdiction to resolve. Planning criteria are the constraints or ground

rules that guide and direct the development of the plan or amendment, and determine how the planning team approaches the development of alternatives and, ultimately, selection of a preferred alternative. They ensure that plans are tailored to identified issues, and that unnecessary data collection and analyses are avoided. Wild horse monitoring and other information collected to support land health assessments since the 1987 Elko RMP was approved is available for use in completing analyses for this Amendment. Preliminary planning issues and criteria, developed internally, will be available for review and comment by the public during the 30-day scoping period established by this notice. The Elko Field Manager will approve the planning criteria following public scoping.

Dated: December 23, 2002.

**Helen Hankins,**

*Field Manager, Elko Field Office.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

#### Notice of Intent To Prepare a Resource Management Plan for the Ely District and Associated Environmental Impact Statement

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Ely Field Office, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to prepare a comprehensive Resource Management Plan (RMP) and associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Ely District, located within Lincoln and White Pine counties and the northeast portion of Nye County, Nevada.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*), and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will prepare a Resource Management Plan to consider a range of alternatives for BLM management of public lands within the Ely District. In conjunction with the RMP, an associated EIS will be prepared to assess the environmental, social, and economic effects of the alternatives considered in the RMP. The BLM will work collaboratively with interested parties to identify the management decisions that are best suited to local, regional, and national needs and concerns. The public scoping process will identify planning