

# United States Department of the Interior



## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Mount Lewis Field Office  
50 Bastian Road  
Battle Mountain, Nevada 89820  
<http://www.nv.blm.gov/battlemountain>  
(775) 635-4000 or [bmfoweb@nv.blm.gov](mailto:bmfoweb@nv.blm.gov)



**In Reply Refer To:**  
4120 (NVB0100)

Dear Interested Public:

With this letter, the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Mount Lewis Field Office (MLFO) is soliciting public comments for the Eagle Butte Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Project. This project would thin (reduce the density of) or substantially remove pinyon pine and juniper trees from up to 5,000 acres within four target areas of the Simpson Park and Toiyabe Mountain Ranges (see enclosed map) which together total approximately 90,000 acres. The four target areas surround Grass Valley, in central Nevada, about 30 miles northwest of the town of Austin. The four target areas fall within the Grass Valley, Simpson Park and Dry Creek grazing allotments.

The primary purpose of this project is to enhance habitat for wildlife, particularly for Greater Sage-Grouse, whose numbers have declined in Nevada as elsewhere. Livestock and wild horses would also benefit from the project. Pinyon and juniper woodlands are expanding throughout the Great Basin region at the expense of shrubs, grasses, and forbs. Increases in both density and distribution of pinyon and juniper trees are especially evident in the Eagle Butte Project Area, resulting in a decreased quantity and quality of wildlife habitat. Removal of trees from selected portions of the project would reverse or retard the degradation of remaining high-value wildlife habitats.

The thinning/removal of pinyon and juniper trees in the project area would be accomplished by crews on foot, using chainsaws. Felled trees would remain in place without further treatment (lop and scatter) in order to minimize costs. However, harvest of downed trees by the public would be encouraged in order to reduce fuel loading. Operations could begin as early as spring 2011 and would continue on a seasonal basis for multiple years as priorities and funding allow. Riparian areas (springs, seeps and especially wet meadows) would receive treatment priority.

Interested parties are invited to provide written comments concerning this proposed project. Please submit any comments to the above address within 15 days of the date posted on this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Mike Stamm, project lead (775) 635-4185. Following the public comment period, the MLFO will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) which will be available to the interested public for review.

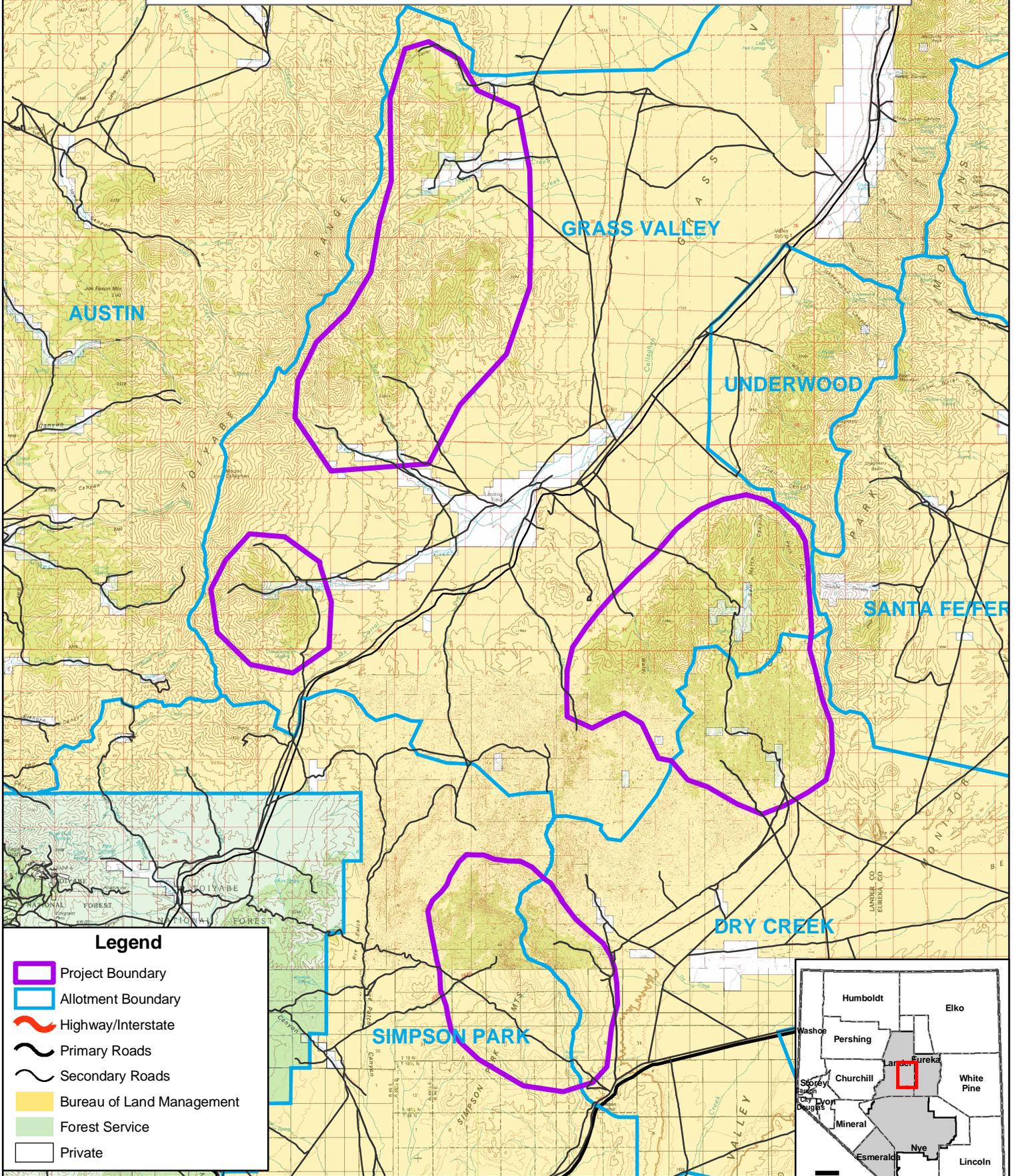
Sincerely,

Douglas W. Furtado  
Field Manager  
Mount Lewis Field Office

Enclosure

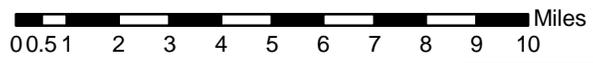
cc: Grass Valley/Dry Creek/Simpson Park Allotments interested publics

# Eagle Butte Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Project



## Legend

-  Project Boundary
-  Allotment Boundary
-  Highway/Interstate
-  Primary Roads
-  Secondary Roads
-  Bureau of Land Management
-  Forest Service
-  Private



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

