



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Battle Mountain District Office

50 Bastian Road

Battle Mountain, Nevada 89820

Phone: 775-635-4000

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http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/battle_mountain_field.html

JUL 08 2011

In Reply Refer To:
1610/ (LLNVB01000)

Dear Interested Party:

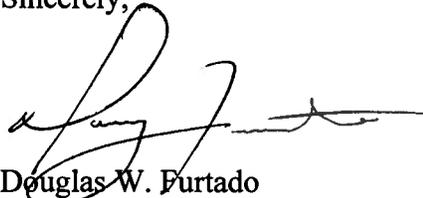
The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Battle Mountain District Office (BMDO) has begun the process to revise its Resource Management Plans (RMPs). This major planning effort will revise both the Shoshone-Eureka and Tonopah RMPs. Based on past or recent communications with the Battle Mountain District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), you may have expressed interest in nominating areas of environmental concern (ACECs) for the Battle Mountain District, Nevada. The BLM appreciates the active role that you, the public, play in our land use planning. I have enclosed our fact sheet on ACECs to help provide you with more insight into our process of designating ACECs as part of the Battle Mountain Resource Management Planning effort.

If you are planning to nominate areas in the Battle Mountain District as an ACEC, we ask that you provide as much information as possible along with your nomination. The following information will help our interdisciplinary team (IDT) evaluate the nominations:

- Name and location of nominated area (legal land description, if possible)
- Map of nominated ACEC area with well-defined boundaries
- Reason or basis for nomination. Include why you believe the area is important and relevant. See the enclosed fact sheet for definition of importance and relevance.
- Any reference material or web addresses where we can obtain additional information or data about the area that you are nominating.

Please submit all nominations by August 8, 2011 to John Hartley by e-mail at john_hartley@blm.gov or by mail to 1553 South Main Street, PO Box 911, Tonopah, NV 89049. Again, the BLM very much appreciates your effort to work with us to protect special places in the Battle Mountain District, Nevada. If you have any questions, please contact John Hartley at the BLM in Tonopah, 775-482-7831 or by e-mail: john_hartley@blm.gov or Christopher Worthington, RMP Project Manager 775-635-4144.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Douglas W. Furtado', written over a horizontal line.

Douglas W. Furtado
District Manager
Battle Mountain District

Enclosures

4.1

BLM BATTLE MOUNTAIN DISTRICT OFFICE RMP PLANNING FACT SHEET *Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)*

Douglas Furtado, BMD Manager
50 Bastian Rd. Battle Mountain, NV 89820
Office hours are 7:30 am to 4:30 pm
Phone: (775) 635-4000
FAX: (775) 635-4034

The BLM Battle Mountain District Office (BMDO) is revising the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the BMDO planning area. The BMDO RMP will provide detailed information about the current state of resources on public lands within the planning area and set forth a plan of action for managing those resources for the next twenty or so years under the BLM's dual mandate of *multiple use* and *sustained yield*.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, commonly known as **ACECs**, are public lands in Nevada managed by the BLM that require special management in order to protect the area's resource values. The resources may be wildlife habitat, special viewsheds, areas of cultural or historical significance, but an ACEC could also be an area that is hazardous to humans.

The BLM wants your input...Do you know of any special areas within the Battle Mountain Planning Area that meet the criteria for becoming an ACEC?

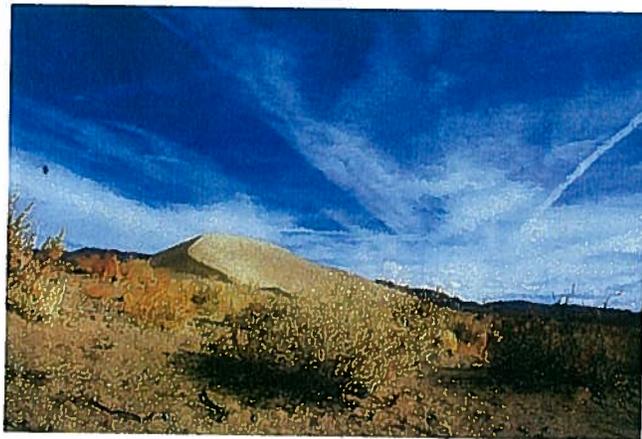
This is the time for both internal and external groups to bring areas of interest to the BLM to be evaluated as part of the RMP process.

As part of the RMP, a BLM interdisciplinary team will evaluate each area for *relevance* and *importance*.

If an area passes this two part evaluation, it will be considered in the RMP for the best means of managing the area to protect the important resources.

How does an area meet the criteria for relevance and importance?.....The interdisciplinary team will evaluate areas for relevance:

- Does the area have a significant historic, cultural, or scenic value?
- Does the area contain special habitat for a critical wildlife resource ?
- Is there a natural process or system present (wetlands, riparian, rare plants)?
- Does an area contain natural hazards (floods, unstable soils, dangerous cliffs, toxic material)?



BLM

4.1—Areas of Critical Environmental Concern



After assessing the relevance of a potential ACEC, the interdisciplinary team then evaluates importance. An area must have substantial significance and value in order to qualify as an ACEC. This generally means that an area or resource is characterized by one or more of the following:

- Has more than locally significant qualities or worth that causes it to stand out from other similar areas or resources.
- Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.
- Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to fulfill the mandates of FLPMA.
- Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.
- Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.



ACECs are another tool in the BLM's management suite that can be used to protect Nevada's special places and resources.

Management prescriptions for ACECs are developed during the RMP process and are tailored to protect the resource value or values that are considered significant in the ACEC.

An ACEC may have roads or allow various human activities within the ACEC depending upon how they impact the significant resource.

Mail comments to:
Battle Mountain RMP
c/o Christopher Worthington
Bureau of Land Management
Battle Mountain District Office
50 Bastian Road
Battle Mountain, NV 89820

BMDO Planning Webpage:
[www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/battle_mountain_field/
blm_information/rmp.com](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/battle_mountain_field/blm_information/rmp.com)

Email comments to:
BattleMountainRMP@blm.gov

**U.S. BLM Battle Mountain District
Resource Management Plan,
Nomination Form for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern**

Please fill out all of the information on this form and submit all comments by August 8, 2011 to John Hartley by e-mail at john_hartley@blm.gov or by mail to 1553 South Main Street, PO Box 911, Tonopah, NV 89049.

- 1. Name of nominating person or agency:**
- 2. Date:**
- 3. Contact information (Address and telephone number):**
- 4. Name of Area:**
- 5. Location (please provide general location and legal description, if known):**
- 6. Map: Please provide a map or GIS shape files.**
- 7. Number of acres:**
- 8. Please list the resource values that are associated with this ACEC nomination (examples: scenic, wildlife, paleontology).**
- 9. Please describe the relevance and importance for this nomination (refer to the fact sheet for more discussion of relevance and importance)**

Please continue comments on back of this sheet.