



## United States Department of the Interior



### BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Egan Field Office

HC33 Box 33500 (702 N. Industrial Way)

Ely, Nevada 89301-9408

[http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely\\_field\\_office.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely_field_office.html)

**FEB 24 2012**

In Reply Refer to:  
4120 (NVL01000)

Dear Interested Public:

This letter is to notify you of a scoping period for a proposed range improvement project on the Cherry Creek Allotment (see attached map). Approximate location is T23N, R62E, sections 9, 15, 16, 22, 27. The proposed action is to authorize an existing well (Egan Basin Well) and an existing temporary above ground pipeline, which runs from Egan Basin Well to an existing trough site approximately 0.3 mile away from the well inside the North Egan Basin Seeding. The existing pipeline would be buried and the existing trough site and well would continue to be utilized as watering sites. The pipeline would also be extended approximately 2.5 miles to the south from the existing trough site inside the seeding to the boundary fence between the North and South Egan Basin Seedings. There would be two additional trough sites established on the new pipeline extension, one would be located near the middle of the pipeline, approximately 1.35 miles from the existing trough site (T23N, R62E, section 15), and another at the south boundary fence of the North Egan Basin Seeding, approximately another 1.85 miles from the other new trough site (T23N, R62E, section 27). The south trough site would extend across the boundary fence to serve the south portion of the North Seeding and the north portion of the South Seeding. The well, pipeline and troughs would occur in the Egan Basin Watershed in White Pine County, Nevada and is situated approximately 5 miles southwest of Cherry Creek, NV and 45 miles north of Ely, NV.

Installation of the pipeline would require digging and replacing a trench to install and bury the pipeline. The trenching for the pipeline would be done by a backhoe or similar equipment and would involve overland travel and would disturb a strip approximately 10 feet wide (5 feet on either side of the trench). The pipeline trench would be approximately 8-12 inches wide and 3 feet deep and would be length of the pipeline (approx. 2.8 miles) and would result in approximately 0.3 acre (2.8 miles x 1 ft) of ripped and replaced soil for the trench within the overall disturbance of approximately 3.4 acres (2.8 miles x 10 ft).

The purpose and need for the pipeline proposal is to authorize the continued use of an existing well and pipeline and to further establish reliable stock water sites through a pipeline extension and additional watering sites which would better distribute livestock grazing throughout the North and South Egan Basin Seedings. This water development would also likely benefit wild horses and wildlife. The proposed project would assist in meeting the rangeland health standards and guidelines for established by the Nevada's Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council (RAC) for the Northeastern Great Basin Area on the Egan Basin portion of the Cherry

Creek Allotment. Improved livestock management and distribution ensures proper vegetation utilization by livestock and therefore promotes healthy and sustainable rangelands.

Following this public scoping period, the BLM will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze potential effects of the proposed action. Public comments are always appreciated and are an important step in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Scoping comments on this proposed action and requests for additional information should be sent to the Egan Field Office, attn: TJ Mabey at HC 33 Box 33500 Ely, NV 89301 or call at (775) 289-1867 or by email at [tmabey@blm.gov](mailto:tmabey@blm.gov).

Please note, before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment; be advised that your entire comment –including your personal identifying information –may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Please submit comments by March 25, 2012. Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,



Gary W. Medlyn  
Field Manager  
Egan Field Office

Enclosure

cc:

Dan Hoots

Herb Stathes

McKay Livestock, Bob McKay

White Pine County Clerk, Linda F. Burleigh

-WPC Community & Economic Development, Dahn Puckett-PLUAC

WPC Community & Economic Development, Jim Garza

Craig C. Downer

Eureka County Department of Natural Resources

Western Watersheds Project, Katie Fite

Nevada Cattlemen's Association

N-4 Grazing Board

Steve Carter

Tom Allen (electronic copy)

Nevada Department of Wildlife, Alan Jenne (electronic copy)

Elko County - Natural Resource Management Advisory Commission (electronic copy)

Nevada State Clearinghouse (electronic copy)

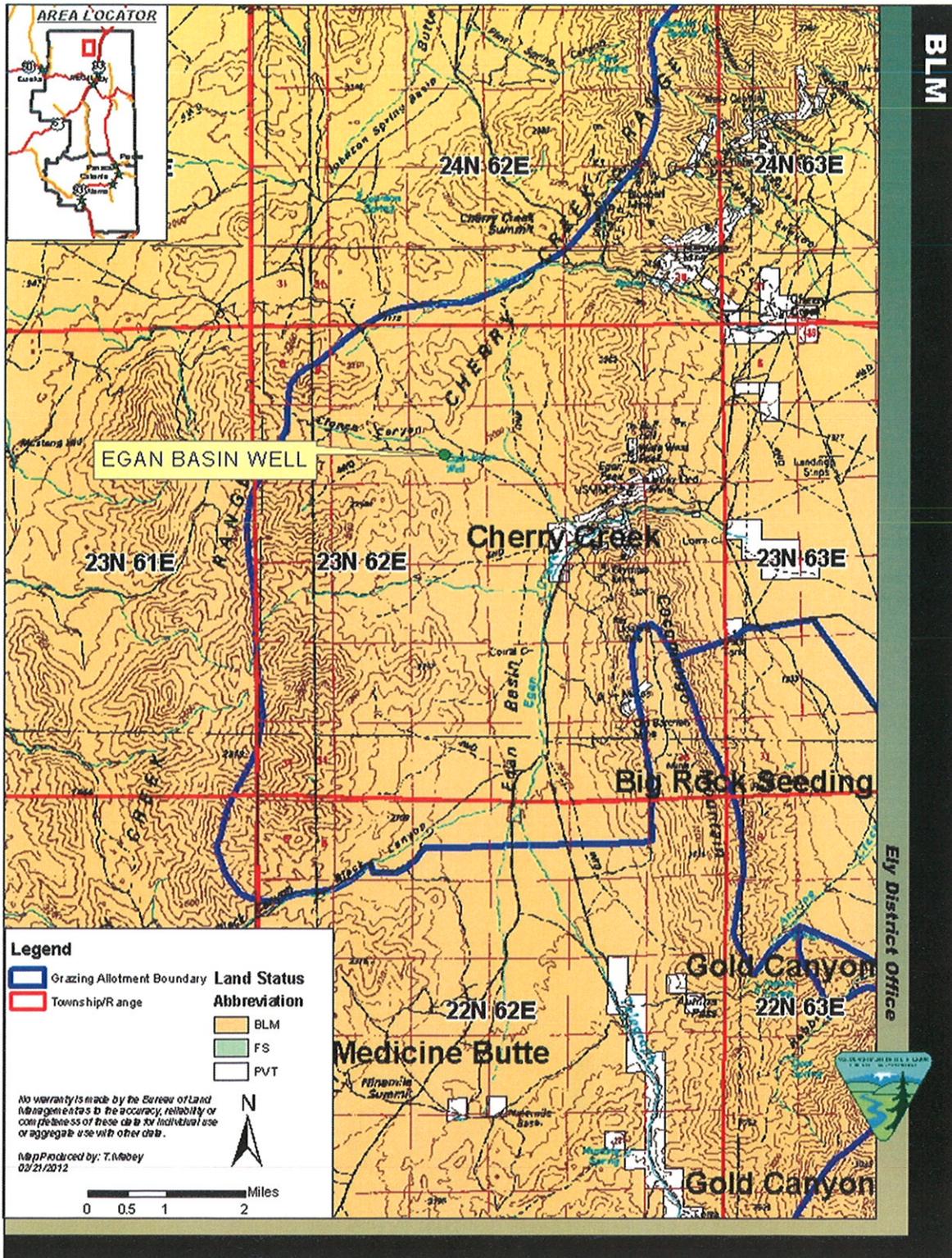


Figure 1. Location of the proposed pipeline on the Cherry Creek Allotment in White Pine County, NV.

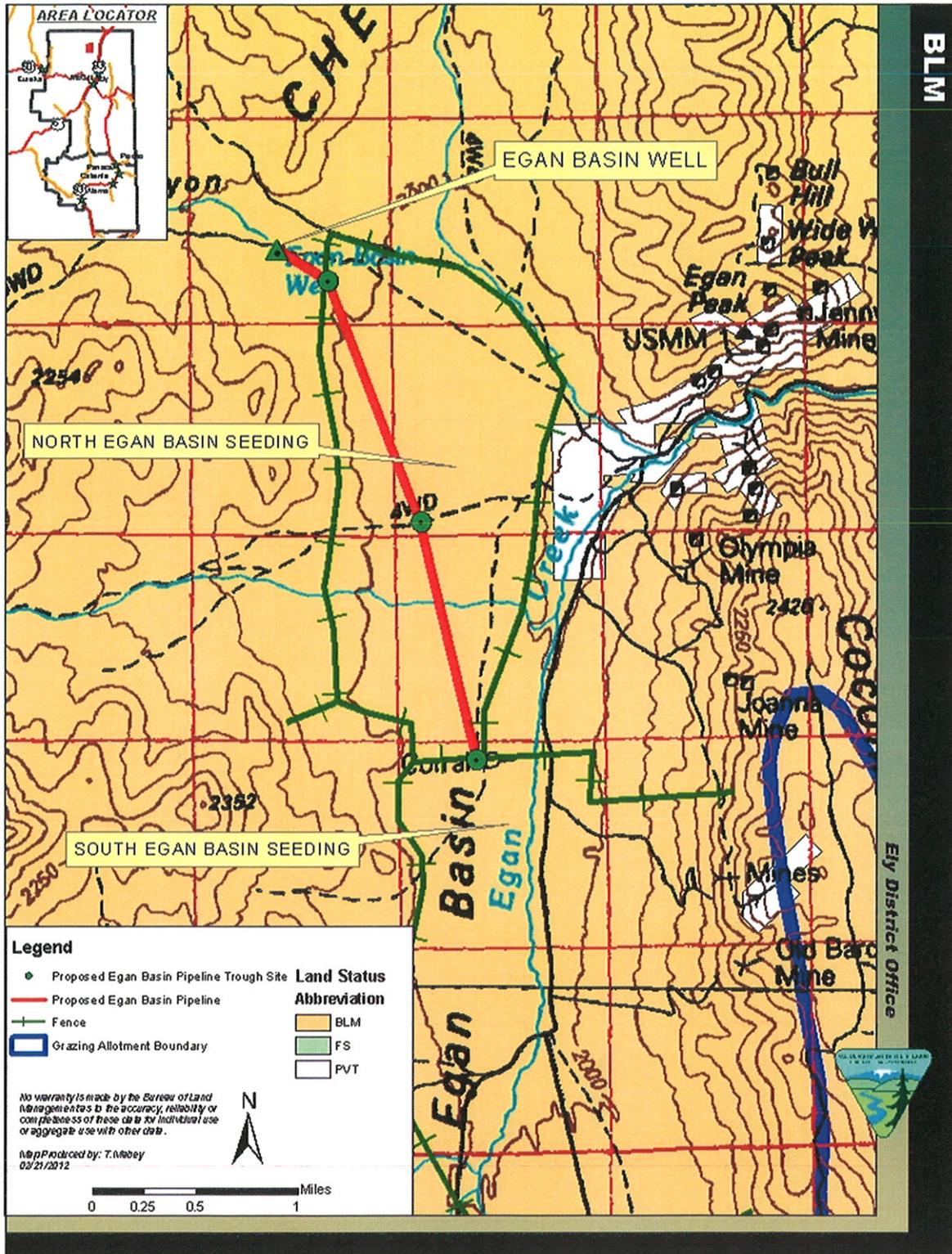


Figure 2. Proposed project layout.