



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

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 Thirty Mile Spring Allotment (see attached map). Approximate location is T19N, R62E, section 34. The proposed action is to install a riparian exclosure fence around Smith Spring and install a spring box, or other collection system, and a pipeline from Smith Spring to the livestock operator's private lands near the spring. This project would occur in the Smith Valley Watershed in White Pine County, Nevada and is situated approximately 15 miles northwest of Ely, NV.

Installation of the spring box and pipeline would require digging and replacing a hole and a trench to install and bury the spring box and pipeline. Digging the hole for the spring box would be done by a backhoe or similar equipment and would disturb a 9 square foot area (3 ft. by 3 ft.) at the spring source. The trenching for the pipeline 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. 1,300 feet) and would result in approximately 0.03 acre (1,300 ft. x 1 ft.) of ripped and replaced soil for the trench within the overall disturbance of approximately 0.3 acre (1,300 ft. x 10 ft.).

The purpose and need for the riparian exclosure fence, water pipeline and trough is to divert livestock use from the spring to the proposed trough site and improve and restore the health and functionality of Smith Spring and its riparian area while still maintaining the private water right held by the livestock operator on the Thirty Mile Spring allotment and to implement a guideline to help continue progressing toward achieving the standards and guidelines for rangeland health as approved by Nevada's Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council (1997).

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.

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:

John Uhalde & Co.

Bruce Hubbard

Glen Terry

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 Thirty Mile Spring Allotment in White Pine County, NV.

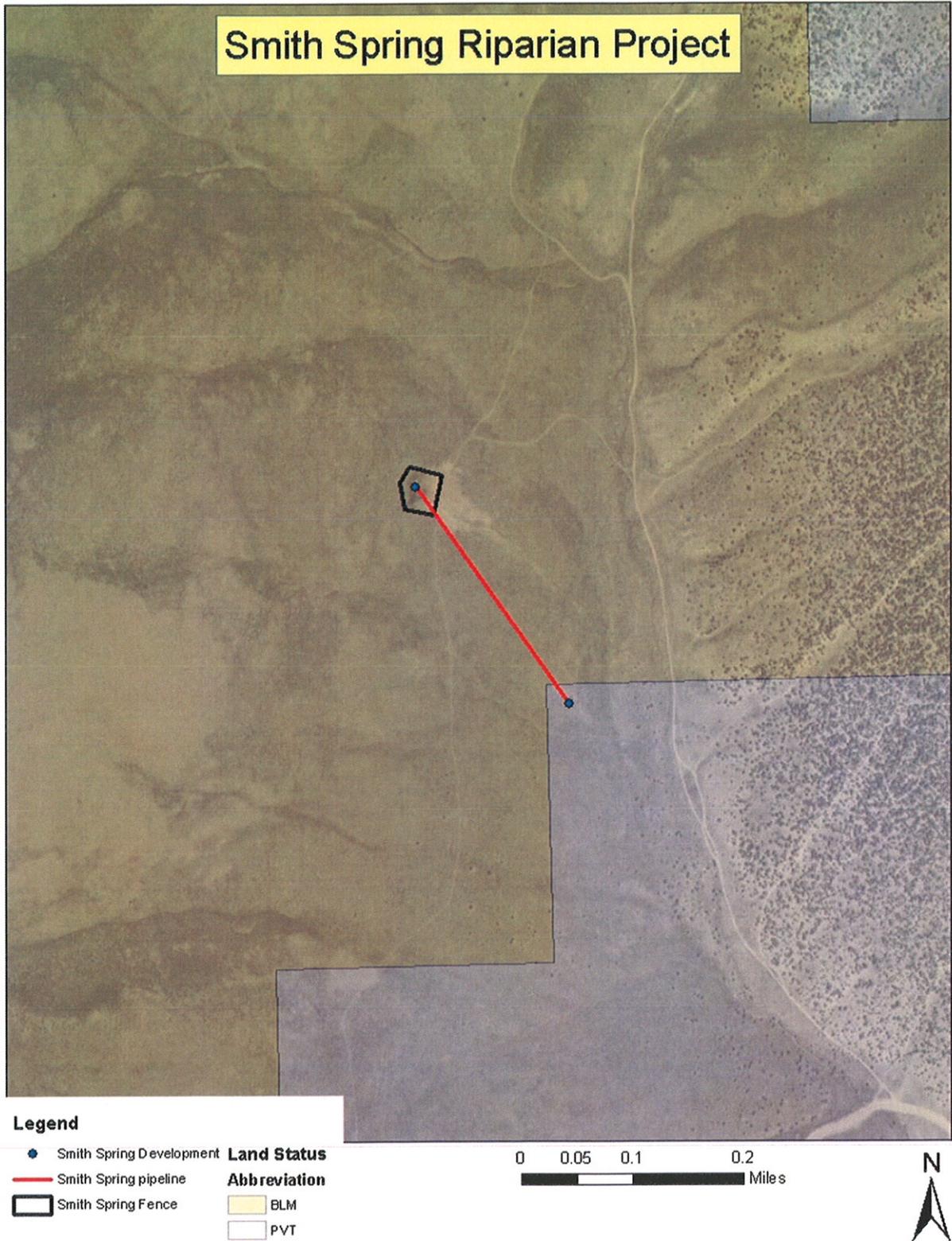


Figure 2. Proposed project layout.