



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Ely District 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)



In Reply Refer to:

**NOPA-NVL00000-12-03**

**FEB 21 2012**

12 FEB 29 AM 3:02

### **NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION**

#### **LANDS IN WILDERNESS**

**STATE:** Nevada

**COUNTIES:** White Pine and Lincoln

**FIELD OFFICE:** Ely District Office  
HC 33 Box 33500  
702 North Industrial Way.  
Ely, Nevada 89301

**WILDERNESS AREAS:** Mount Grafton, Fortification Range, South Egan Range  
and Far South Egans

**PROPOSED ACTION:** **Prescribed burn and seeding as part of the Cave Valley  
& Lake Valley Watershed Assessment Restoration Plan**

#### **Description of the Proposed Action**

The Cave Valley and Lake Valley watersheds encompass portions the Far South Egans, Fortification Range, South Egan Range and Mount Grafton Wilderness areas which were designated in 2004 and 2006. These two watersheds include 60% of the Far South Egans, 66% of the Fortification Range, 26% of the South Egan Range and 86% of the Mount Grafton Wilderness areas. Mount Grafton Wilderness is split between the two watersheds.

#### **Combination Treatments**

One of the goals for conducting these treatments within Wilderness is to increase the "naturalness" of the area by reducing pinyon pine and juniper density and creating a more mosaic pattern and varied age class in all vegetative communities. Four "Combination" treatment units, which would utilize Prescribed Fire in wilderness, occur within these wilderness areas. Adaptive management in these units could include native seeding or temporary fencing. Treatment units C-1 and C-4 lie within the Mount Grafton Wilderness, treatment unit C-2 is within the Far South Egans Wilderness, and unit C-3 overlaps the Fortification Range Wilderness.

### Aspen Restoration Treatments

A second goal for treatments in wilderness is to keep aspen stands intact on the landscape, long term. Three units occur in three of these wilderness areas for Aspen Restoration: treatment unit A-1 is within the South Egan Range Wilderness, unit A-2 is within the Mount Grafton Wilderness and unit A-3 is in the Far South Egans Wilderness. These treatments would utilize Prescribed Fire, Hand Cutting for Tree Removal, or Fencing to meet the objectives.

Though the controlled burn and seeding will have a trammeling effect on wilderness it will also improve the naturalness of the area over time. All activities associated with the prescribed burn will be conducted with the minimum tool guidelines and seed will be aerielly or hand applied. No new roads would be created if a fire treatment were to be applied.

Unit	Total Acres of unit	% targeted for treatment	Acres targeted
A-1	727	60-80	436-582
A-2	16,258	60-80	9,755-13,006
A-3	186	60-80	112-149
C-1	11,215	40-60	4,486-6,729
C-2	8,770	40-60	3,508-5,262
C-3	24,744	40-60	9,898-14,846
C-4	6751	40-60	2,700-4,051

### Expected Decision

It is expected that the District Manager will make a decision to approve the implementation of the proposed treatments identified in the Cave Valley and Lake Valley Watershed Assessment Restoration Plan.

For more information, please visit the project website by (1) accessing the main Ely District webpage ([http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely\\_field\\_office.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely_field_office.html)), (2) Clicking on the link at the top of the page that reads "Please see our NEPA Documentation page for current NEPA projects and documentation." and (3) Clicking on the project link under the heading "Draft Environmental Assessments in Open Public Comment Period."

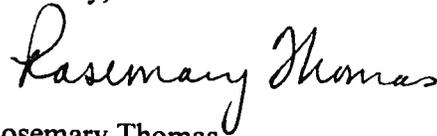
### Public Comment

A public meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 22, 2012 from 5:00-7:00 pm at the Caliente Field Office, U.S. Highway 93, Building #1, in Caliente. A second public meeting will be held on Thursday, February 23, 2012 from 5:00-7:00 at the BLM Ely District Office, 702 N. Industrial Way, in Ely. The public comment period will be open until **March 23, 2012** to receive comments and suggestions regarding any aspects of the project or the Preliminary Environmental Assessment. Written comments should be submitted to the following address:

BLM Ely District Office  
702 N. Industrial Way  
HC 33 Box 33500  
Ely, NV 89301  
ATTN: Gloria Tibbetts

For additional information, please contact Gloria Tibbetts, Planning and Environmental Coordinator for the Schell Field Office at (775) 289-1825 or by email at [gtibbetts@blm.gov](mailto:gtibbetts@blm.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rosemary Thomas".

Rosemary Thomas  
District Manager  
Ely District

**Attachment:** Map of treatment units in the Cave Valley and Lake Valley Watersheds