



## United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Southern Nevada District Office  
4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive  
Las Vegas, NV 89130  
<http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ivfo.1.html>

MAY 16 2012

In Reply Refer To:  
8500 (NVS0054)

**NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSED ACTION**  
**LANDS OF THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM**  
**Arrow Canyon Wilderness**

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is required to inform all affected or interested persons or organizations about proposed actions or unauthorized activities occurring within BLM Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas. The following information is in regard to a proposal from the BLM Southern Nevada District to write an Environmental Assessment (EA) to conduct hazardous fuels reduction and weed treatments within designated Wilderness in Arrow Canyon.

**Background**

The plant community in the Pahrangat Wash portion of Arrow Canyon Wilderness Area is dominated by invasive, non-native species including: tamarisk, Scotch thistle and Malta starthistle. These species prevent native species from populating the area and create high fuel loads, possibly increasing the likelihood of wildfire. A fire in Pahrangat Wash could damage or destroy sensitive cultural resources.

The BLM began removing tamarisk in 1999 and 2000 to create firebreaks surrounding sensitive cultural resources. In 2001, three acres of cut stump removal was completed with the intention of piling cut tamarisk and burning piles at a later date. Throughout this time, treatments were occurring in what was then the Arrow Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA). Then in 2002, the Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act was passed which designated Arrow Canyon Wilderness as a unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System and released the remainder of the WSA for other purposes. As a result, a portion of the historic vegetation treatment area is now located within the Wilderness, while the remainder is outside the current wilderness boundary. Since the wilderness was designated, no treatments have been accomplished and the area continues to be dominated by tamarisk and thistle. There are currently multiple slash piles remaining that have not yet been burned.

**Location**

Pahrangat Wash, Arrow Canyon Wilderness  
NW¼, Sec. 3, Township 14 S., Range 64 E., MDM

**Proposed Action**

The EA will provide site-specific direction for reduction of hazardous fuels and weeds on 21 acres within the Pahranaagat Wash, Arrow Canyon Wilderness, and 15 acres, adjacent to, but outside of the wilderness. Treatment within Arrow Canyon Wilderness will involve cutting tamarisk to near ground-level. Immediately following cutting, herbicide would be applied on each stump. Smaller tamarisk sprouts would receive a foliar treatment of herbicide. Cut limbs would be added to existing slash piles and burned.

Standing dead stems of Scotch thistle and Malta starthistle would be piled with tamarisk and burned to remove the fuel and ease future herbicide application on living individuals of these noxious weeds. Actively growing thistles would be managed with a combination of mechanical (manual removal) and chemical (application of herbicide using backpack sprayers) treatments. Thistle treatment methods would focus on first year rosettes and second year individuals prior to flowering. A variety of herbicide formulations would be applied to thistle over the course of the project, but not more than one formulation would be applied per year. This EA will cover specific activities on known and existing fuels and weed management issues, as well as provide guidelines for future activities to preserve the natural condition of the wash.

Please submit comments to the District Manager at the address below, with "Arrow Canyon Hazardous Fuels Reduction" in the subject line, for consideration and use in evaluating and processing the proposed action. Alternately, comments may be sent to [lrhea@blm.gov](mailto:lrhea@blm.gov). All comments must be received by the closing date of this comment period on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012. Environmental and minimum tool analysis will be completed and a final decision on the proposed action is expected by July 2012, with implementation beginning thereafter. If you have any questions regarding this notification please contact Lucas Rhea, Prescribed Fire and Fuels Technician, at 702-515-5281.

Sincerely,



Mary Jo Rugwell  
District Manager



# Proposed Arrow Canyon Fuel and Weed Treatments

Legend	
	Interstate
	US Highway
	State Highway
	County Highway
	Allroad
	Colony
	Local
	State Country Easement
	Reservation
	Recreation
	Area-Capped/Proposed/Fed
	Land Withdrawal
	Land Withdrawal
	Bureau of Indian Affairs
	Bureau of Land Management
	Bureau of Reclamation
	City of Las Vegas
	Clark County, NV
	Department of Defense
	Department of Energy
	Fish and Wildlife Service
	Fossil Service
	National Park Service
	Nevada State
	Private



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles

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NV 168

Proposed Project Area

CCC Dam

