

'12 SEP 14 11:11



# 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

Fax: 775-635-4034

[http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/battle\\_mountain\\_field.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/battle_mountain_field.html)

In Reply Refer To:  
9210 (NV-064)

Dear Interested Parties,

In keeping our public informed of on-going planning efforts, The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Battle Mountain District Office (BMDO) wishes to notify interested parties of a planning effort to reduce hazardous fuel loadings and create a defensible buffer from catastrophic wildfire in and around Battle Mountain, NV. Comments on this project may be sent to the BMDO, *ATTN: Battle Mountain Fire Defense System Project Lead*, and will be accepted until 09-28-2012.

A fire risk and hazard assessment has been completed for the Battle Mountain area. The BMDO has identified approximately 22,000 acres of Wildland-urban Interface Public Lands that are at an overall moderate risk of experiencing catastrophic wildfire.

As a result of implementing the proposed action, buffers would be created in strategic areas which would serve to moderate fire behavior within the treated areas, therefore reducing the likelihood of a wildfire entering (or leaving) the community of Battle Mountain. It would create a safer environment for firefighters to engage in suppression operations than what is present now. Further benefits include local watershed protection, improvement of stand structure and increased opportunities for ecological diversity within the Wildland-Urban Interface. In addition, areas within the wildland-urban interface would be more resistant to fire. Upon completion of this project, monitoring, and further maintenance (mechanical, chemical, biological, and/or possible prescribed fire) treatments will be utilized to maintain the project area.

A combination of mechanical, chemical and biological treatments are a cost-effective and eco-friendly way to address the hazardous fuel conditions occurring within the Battle Mountain Fire Defense Systems Assessment Area.

A local scoping meeting will be scheduled in Battle Mountain, Nevada, to meet with interested publics to further develop the project. Reasonable and feasible options will be discussed including brush-beating (shrub mastication), green-stripping and the use of prescribed grazing. The goal is to create a fire defense system within the assessment area to make an established or emerging wildfire easier and safer to manage. Staff from the Battle Mountain District Fire Program will facilitate the meeting in order to gain feedback on the most favorable options for

protecting at-risk resources in the Battle Mountain Assessment Area. Notice for this meeting will be provided via local press releases and flyers posted within the communities.

I am enclosing two maps of the proposed treatment areas within the Battle Mountain area. The first map (Figure 1) illustrates areas that we have identified as potential areas for hazardous fuels reduction work to occur based on the risk assessment that has been completed. The second map (Figure 2) illustrates areas that have natural barriers and are already resistant to fire spread.

This package should provide interested parties with a good understanding of what the BMDO intends to accomplish to provide defensible buffers from wildfire. Any other questions regarding this project should be directed to Josh Tibbetts, Prescribed Fire/Fuels Specialist or Chad Lewis, Fuels Program Manager at 775-635-4000.

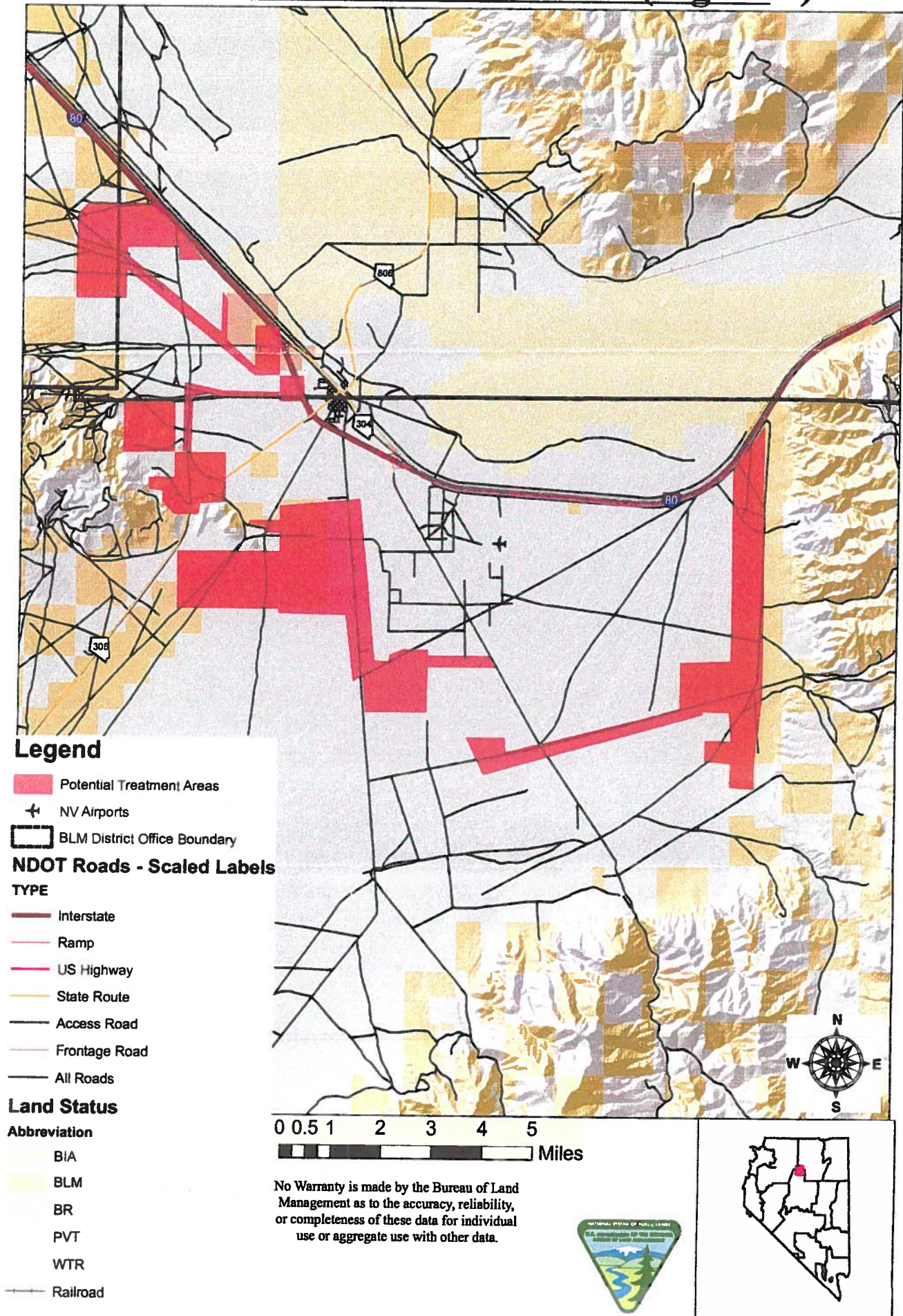
Sincerely,



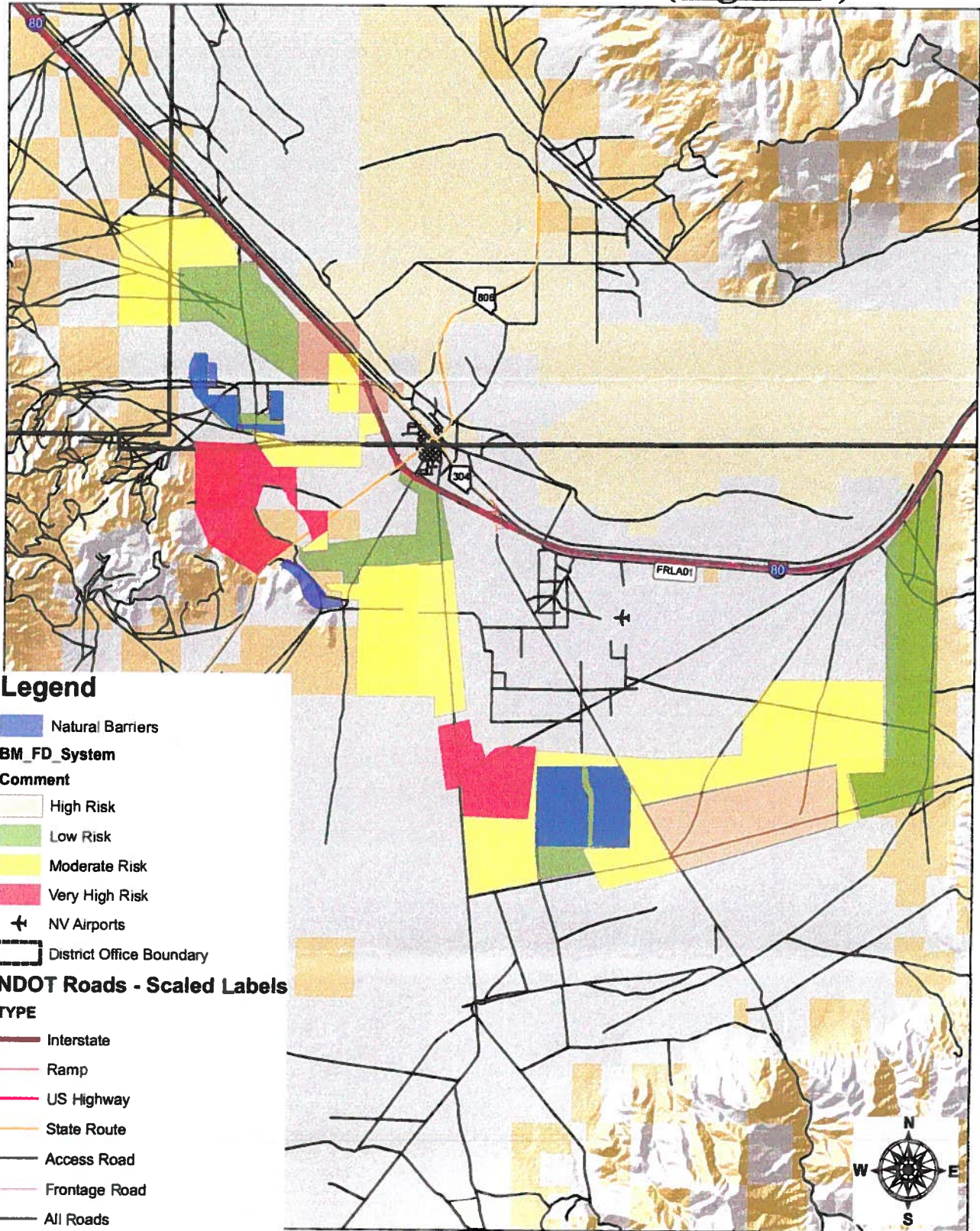
*Ja*  
Christopher J. Cook  
Mount Lewis Field Office  
Field Manager

Enclosures

# Battle Mountain Fire Defense Systems Areas for Potential Treatment (Figure 1)



# Natural Barriers to Fire Spread and Risk Assessment Areas (Figure 2)



## Legend

■ Natural Barriers

### BM\_FD System

#### Comment

■ High Risk

■ Low Risk

■ Moderate Risk

■ Very High Risk

+ NV Airports

District Office Boundary

### NDOT Roads - Scaled Labels

#### TYPE

— Interstate

— Ramp

— US Highway

— State Route

— Access Road

— Frontage Road

— All Roads

### Land Status

#### Abbreviation

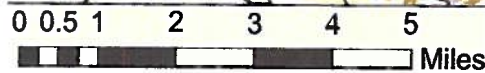
■ BIA

■ BLM

■ BR

■ PVT

■ WTR



No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

