



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Surprise Field Office
PO Box 460
Cedarville, CA 96104
www.ca.blm.gov/surprise



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In Reply Refer To:
6000 (CA-370) P

December 5, 2012

Dear Interested Party,

The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) has proposed the installation of nine water catchment devices (commonly referred to as “guzzlers”). These installations would be located within the following allotments: Bull Creek, Nevada Coleman, Home Camp, Duck Lake and Bare allotments. The analysis area includes a portion of the SFO (see attached map). The Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area, Wilderness Study Areas (WSA), Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and designated wildernesses are outside the scope of this EA. This EA would analyze impacts of wildlife water developments based on typical construction scenarios. This environmental assessment (EA) would be designed to serve as a programmatic analysis for future wildlife water developments within the SFO.

Additional site specific proposals received for isolated wildlife water developments or a complex or series of wildlife water developments, would be considered per policy guidance, Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Adequacy Administrative Record (WO I.M. 2001-062). Any additional wildlife water developments would have to be within the scope of the EA and meet all criteria and SOP's outlined in the EA.

According to information provided by the NDOW:

- Guzzlers are metal structures built in suitable wildlife habitats to provide an additional source of water for wildlife of all types and sizes. The structure collects rainwater in a pond and stores it in tanks; the tanks then feed the water to a drinker that can be accessed by wildlife.
- These guzzlers will benefit wildlife including but not limited to: Greater sage-grouse, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep, chukar, and other common sage-steppe species.
- These guzzlers will reduce competition for water between wildlife and livestock and wild horses along with increasing wildlife distribution across the landscape.
- Disturbance associated with each guzzler would be approximately .1 acres, with a pipe rail fence that would be constructed to exclude wild horse and livestock use.
- Each guzzler would have a 5,000 gallon capacity with a 2,000 square foot apron piped to a self leveling drinker.

This proposed action conforms to the 2008 Surprise Field Office Resource Management Plan, which states that the Surprise Field Office will "Coordinate with game agencies in maintenance and construction of wildlife guzzlers" (Surprise RMP Executive Summary page 12). The Surprise Field Office is responsible for the environmental assessment (EA) for this project and if approved, NDOW would be responsible for construction of the guzzlers.

The Surprise Field Office is initiating scoping for planning efforts which will review information and complete environmental documentation necessary for this project. As a first step in this process we are determining public interest and hereby requesting any related information you may have which is relevant to the proposed projects. Your information will be combined with NDOW and BLM information and will be used to identify resource concerns and to develop purpose and need statements and alternatives for analysis. More information on guzzlers can be found at <http://www.ndow.org/wild/habitat/guzzler/>.

If you would like to be involved in this planning process or have information concerning this proposal please send it to:

Bureau of Land Management
Attn: Scott Soletti
Surprise Field Office
PO Box 460
Cedarville, CA 96104

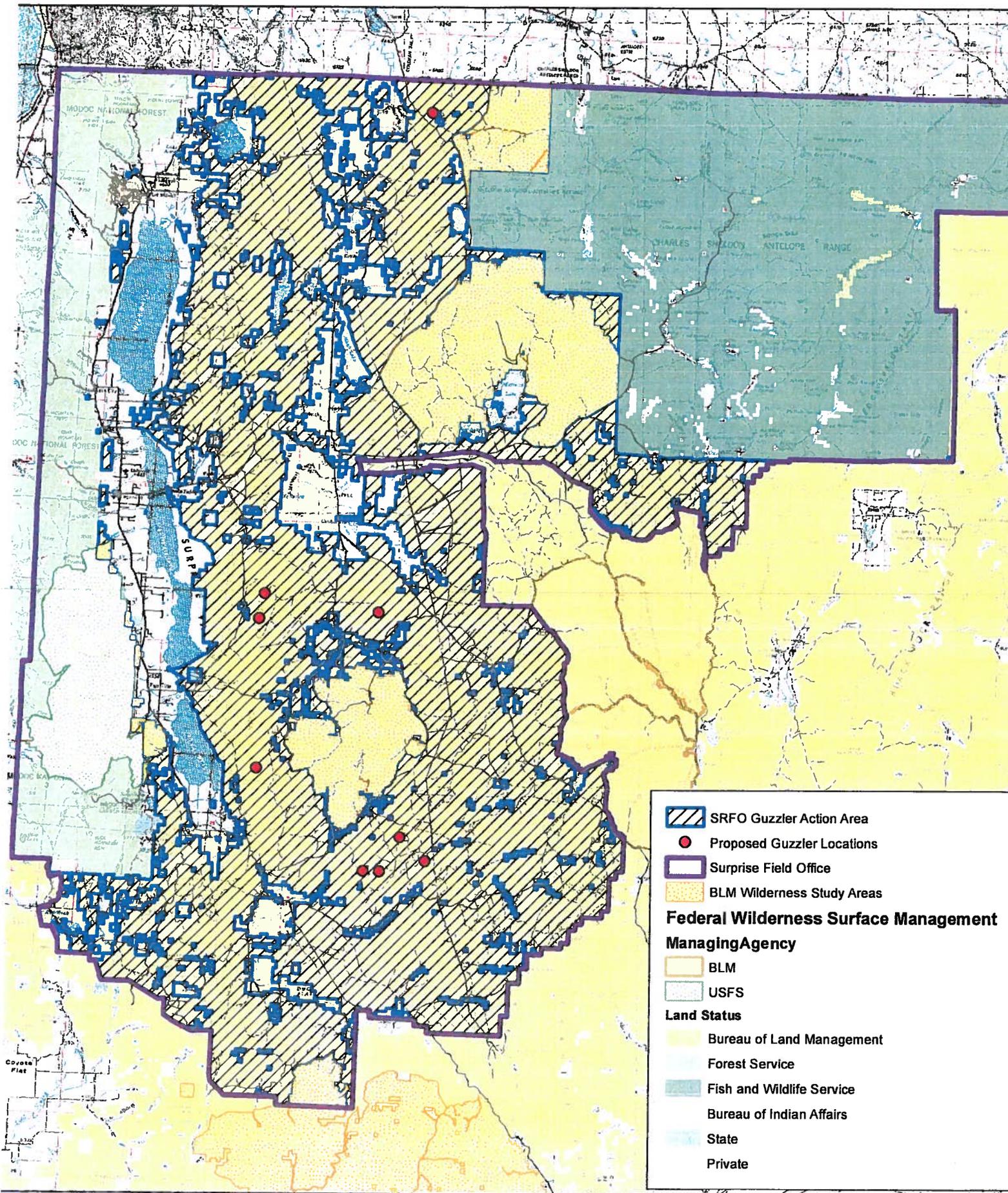
Your comments should be submitted by January 5, 2013 to insure consideration. If you are not interested in receiving information, or if you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please contact the Surprise Field Office at the above address or you may call Scott Soletti directly at (530) 279-6101. If you do not respond to this letter, we will not include you in follow-up correspondence relating to this project. You will however remain on our coordination list for future projects.

Sincerely,



Tim Burke
Acting Surprise Field Office Manager

Attachments: Map of Guzzler Locations and Action Area



	SRFO Guzzler Action Area
	Proposed Guzzler Locations
	Surprise Field Office
	BLM Wilderness Study Areas
Federal Wilderness Surface Management	
Managing Agency	
	BLM
	USFS
Land Status	
	Bureau of Land Management
	Forest Service
	Fish and Wildlife Service
	Bureau of Indian Affairs
	State
	Private

**Surprise Field Office
Big Game Guzzler
Action Area**



0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles



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