



# 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:  
9210 (NVL0044)

**APR 22 2013**

Dear Interested Public:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update on the Overland Pass Hazardous Fuels Project. This project was initially proposed in January of 2012, and on February 16, 2012 a scoping letter was mailed to potentially interested parties. That scoping letter is available for review on the Forest Service website shown below.

The Bureau of Land Management, Ely District Office (BLM) in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Ruby Mountain Ranger District (FS) and the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW); are proposing to conduct manual, mechanical and prescribed fire treatments in the Overland Pass area in order to:

- Improve habitat for sage-grouse, mule deer, and pronghorn antelope.
- Restore natural vegetative conditions and improve vegetation diversity within the treatment areas.
- Reduce risk of large wildfires.

The project area is located along the southern flanks of the Ruby Mountains, in White Pine and Elko Counties, Nevada. The Overland Pass/Big Wash Habitat Improvement and consists of approximately 40,000 acres, of which approximately 17,000 acres would undergo vegetation treatments (see enclosed map). The project is located in greater sage-grouse nesting, summer, and winter habitat; crucial summer, winter and transitional mule deer habitats; and pronghorn antelope habitat.

Preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) is currently underway for this project. This EA outlines and discloses the Proposed Action, any Alternative Actions, Existing Environment, Environmental Consequences, and Cumulative Impacts and will be available for public review and comment in the coming months.

Feedback and comments on this project can be provided at this time in writing by either email or postal mail. Please respond by May 20, 2013. Before including address, phone number, email-address, or any other personal identifying information in your comments, be advised that your entire comment, including personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While individuals may request that the BLM withhold personal identifying information from public view, the BLM cannot guarantee it will be able to do so. If you wish us to withhold your personal information you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment.

We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Comments via email can be submitted to:

ccoombs@blm.gov  
comments-intermtn-humboldt-toiyabe-rubymtns-jarbidge@fs.fed.us

Comments via postal mail should be submitted to:

Cody Coombs, Fuels Program Manager  
BLM  
HC 33, Box 33500  
Ely, NV 89301

If you have any questions or would like to remain on the mailing list for this project, please contact Cody Coombs at the address listed above or at (775) 289-1854. Please note that future project information and EA documents may only be sent to those who comment or request to remain on the mailing list for this project. However, all EA documents will be published to the BLM Ely District website and on the Forest Service website as shown below:

Forest Service	<a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=36593">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=36593</a>
BLM	<a href="http://www.blm.gov/nv/sten/foley_field_office.html">www.blm.gov/nv/sten/foley_field_office.html</a>

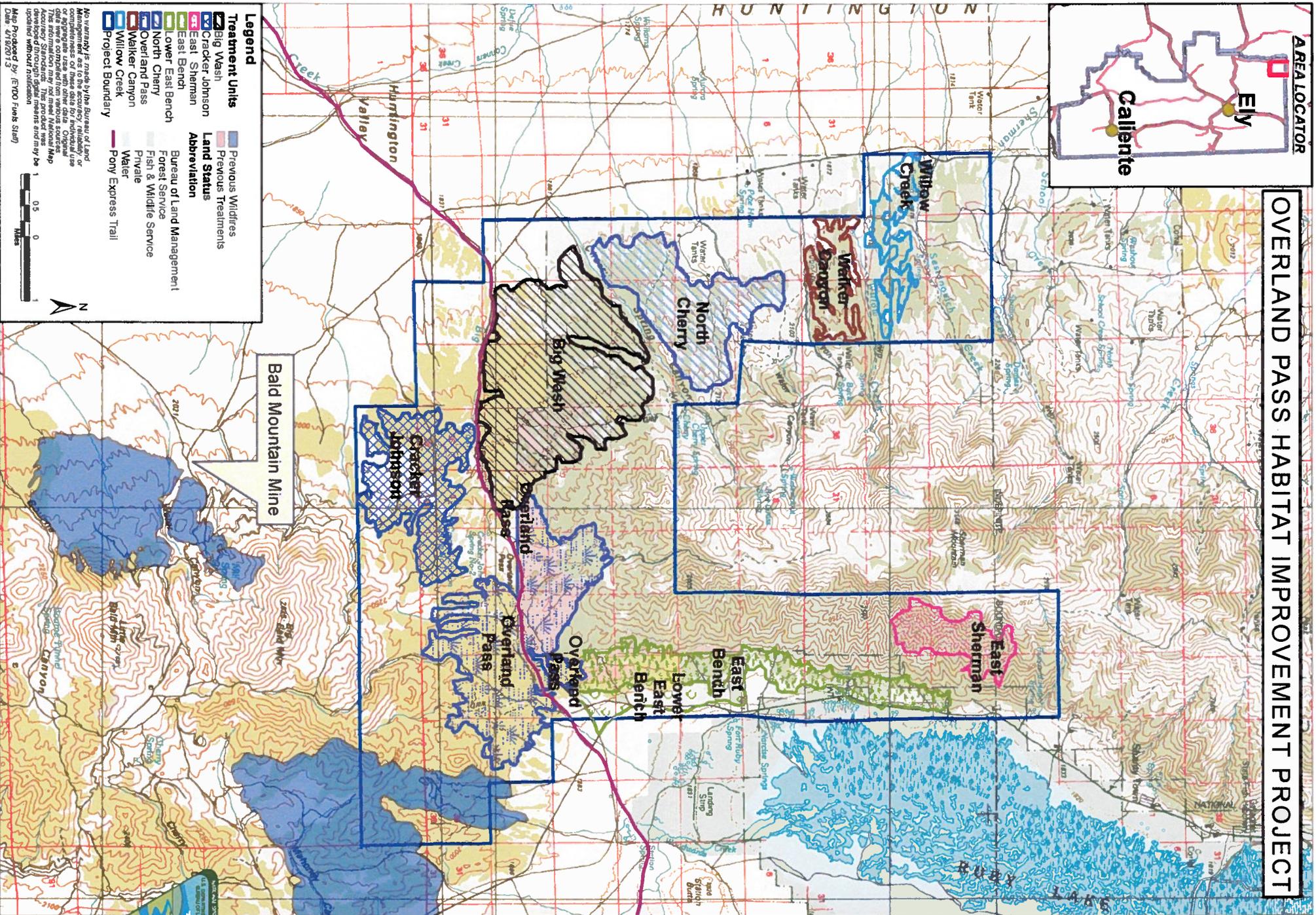
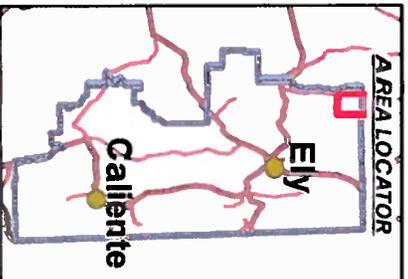
Sincerely,



Tye H. Petersen  
Fire Management Officer

Enclosure

**OVERLAND PASS HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**



**Legend**

	<b>Treatment Units</b>		Previous Wildfires
	Big Wash		Previous Treatments
	Cracker Johnson		Bureau of Land Management
	East Sherman		Forest Service
	East Bench		Fish & Wildlife Service
	Lower East Bench		Private
	North Cherry		Water
	Overland Pass		Pony Express Trail
	Walker Canyon		
	Willow Creek		
	Project Boundary		

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data. The data were compiled from various sources. The information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. Users are advised to update through digital means and may be updated without notification.

Map Produced by: (E700 First Staff) Date: 4/18/2013

Scale: 1 inch = 0.5 miles

North Arrow



**Ely District Office**