



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Tonopah Field Office
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In Reply Refer To:
2800

JUL 12 2017

Dear Interested Public,

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Tonopah Field Office (TFO) is beginning an Environmental Assessment (EA) to address the potential effects of replacing an essential radio repeater on Piper Peak, within the Piper Peak Wilderness Study Area (WSA). The old repeater was already in place when the WSA was established, and stopped working last year. It is mounted on a telephone pole which would be removed using pick and shovel. The new repeater is a self-contained unit which is slightly larger but the same overall height including antenna (13 ft), and would be set in place via helicopter sling, with no ground disturbance. It would occupy an 8 ft x 8 ft area.

The purpose and need for the action are defined as follows:

The purpose of the action is to respond to a request by Inyo National Forest (INF) and BLM Bishop Field Office (BFO) to renew their permit to maintain, upgrade and operate the Piper Peak Repeater on BLM Tonopah Field Office administered land.

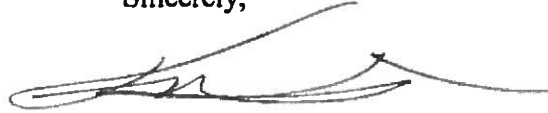
The need for the action is established by BLM's responsibility to respond to ROW requests under Section 501 of the Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended and BLM Rights-of-Way (ROW) Regulations found at 43 CFR 2800. The Piper Peak repeater is strategically located to serve Fish Lake Valley and Dyer, Nevada; and the eastern portions of INF and public lands administered by BFO. It is a critical communication link for all-hazard federal, state and local government agencies and incidents east of the White Mountains including wildfire, law enforcement, medical, vehicle accident, hazardous materials, search and rescue, and resource management operations. The topography in this region of steep mountains and deep valleys is such that there is no technologically feasible alternative location, or configuration of more than one location, that would meet the need.

The location is T.3 S., R.37 E., Sec. 6 SW ¼ SW ¼. A map is enclosed. As the wildfire season is already underway, installation would be this August or as soon as possible.

As required by BLM WSA Manual 6330, the action would be temporary: the unit could be removed with no ground disturbance if new technology makes it unnecessary, and the permit could be terminated if Congress were to designate the WSA as wilderness. The EA will be conducted as per WSA Manual 6330(E)(3), and will address all wilderness characteristics and determine whether the project meets the non-impairment criterion for WSAs.

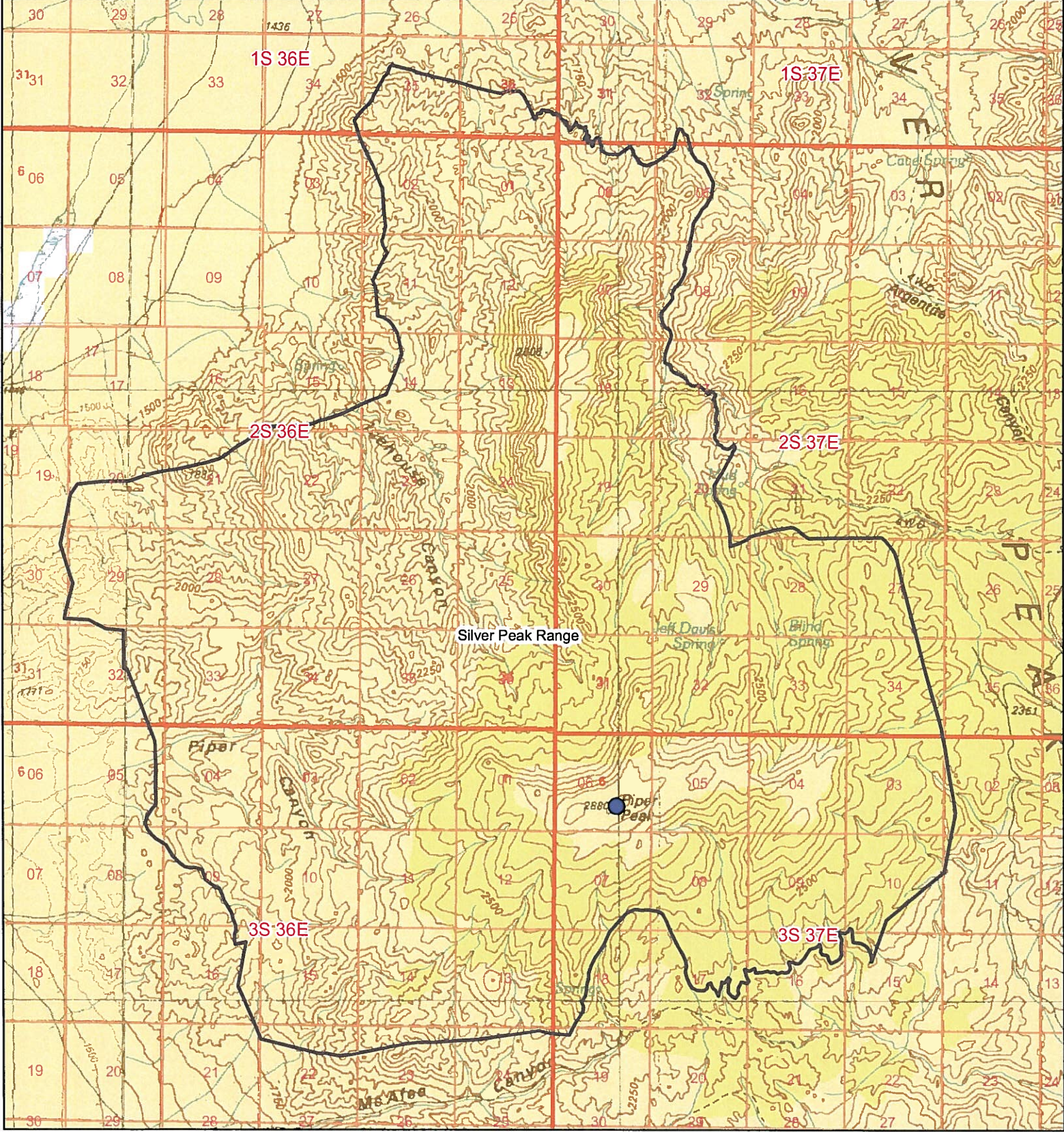
If you would like more information, please contact TFO wilderness coordinator Paul Amar (775-482-7836, pamar@blm.gov) or planning and environmental coordinator Joy Fatooh (775-482-7835, jfatooh@blm.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy J. Coward', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Timothy J. Coward
Field Manager

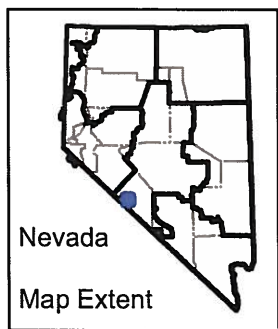
Enclosure: Map



Piper Peak Communication Site

Legend

- BLM Wilderness Study Area
 - Section
 - Township
 - Site Location
- Land Status**
- Bureau of Land Management
 - Private



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Map Date: July 11, 2017

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