



# United States Department of the Interior



## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Wells Field Office  
3900 East Idaho Street  
Elko, Nevada 89801  
<http://www.blm.gov/nv>

In Reply Refer To:  
3720 (NVE03000)  
6840 (NVE03000)

DEC 01 2017

Dear Interested Party,

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Wells Field Office working with Trout Unlimited, the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), and private landowners is proposing a stream habitat restoration project for approximately 1,400 feet of Dry Creek, a tributary to Salmon Falls Creek in northeastern Elko County, Nevada (refer to Figure 1). Dry Creek historically supported spawning habitat for redband trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss spp.*) until barite mining activity and road building in the 1960s and 1970s impaired the channel conditions and impeded fish passage to spawning habitat. In one section of channel, an undersized culvert at the Big Ledge Mine haul road has created a 4-foot high fish passage barrier. Further upstream, mining waste from the old Consolation Pit has filled over 800 linear feet of the stream channel, forcing perennial flow subsurface, and preventing fish passage to upstream spawning habitat.

The Dry Creek Restoration Project proposes to remove existing fish passage barriers at the Lower Reach (undersized culvert replacement) and the Upper Reach (channel buried by mining waste rock). The Lower Reach restoration would include approximately 600 linear feet of channel reconstruction and an appropriately sized culvert replacement with a natural bed. The Upper Reach would include approximately 800 linear feet of channel restoration and re-naturalization of the creek within the relatively narrow drainage.

Adjacent to the Upper Reach segment of the creek is an existing four-wheel drive (4WD) two-track route used to access BLM-administered lands in this area. The recreation and hunter access to this area would need to be maintained as part of the proposed restoration project. BLM has developed two alternatives to address retaining the access. One option would be to keep the 4WD two-track route adjacent to the creek, and the second option would be to re-locate it away from the creek using a previously abandoned mining haul road. The two access alternatives under consideration are also shown on Figure 1. More information can be found on the project website: <https://go.usa.gov/xn9Dy>.

At this time the WFO is initiating a 15-day public scoping period and welcomes the submission of any comments, data or information related potential issues, impacts, and alternatives that should be addressed in an Environmental Assessment (EA). Comments and input should be submitted to the BLM as described below by December 18, 2017. Written comments on the Dry Creek Restoration Project should be mailed to the BLM Wells Office, Attn: Aili Gordon, 3900 East Idaho Street, Elko, NV 89801, emailed to [WellsFO\\_NEPA@blm.gov](mailto:WellsFO_NEPA@blm.gov); or faxed to (775) 753-0347. Scoping input must be received within 15 days from the posted date of this letter. This project is site specific, rather than programmatic in scope, with no anticipated significant environmental impacts and will be analyzed in an environmental assessment (EA) as required by

the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and BLM policy. Upon completion, the EA for this project will be posted to the project website for review.

Before including your address, phone number or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

If you have questions, please contact Aili Gordon at [agordon@blm.gov](mailto:agordon@blm.gov) or call (775) 753- 0356.

Sincerely,

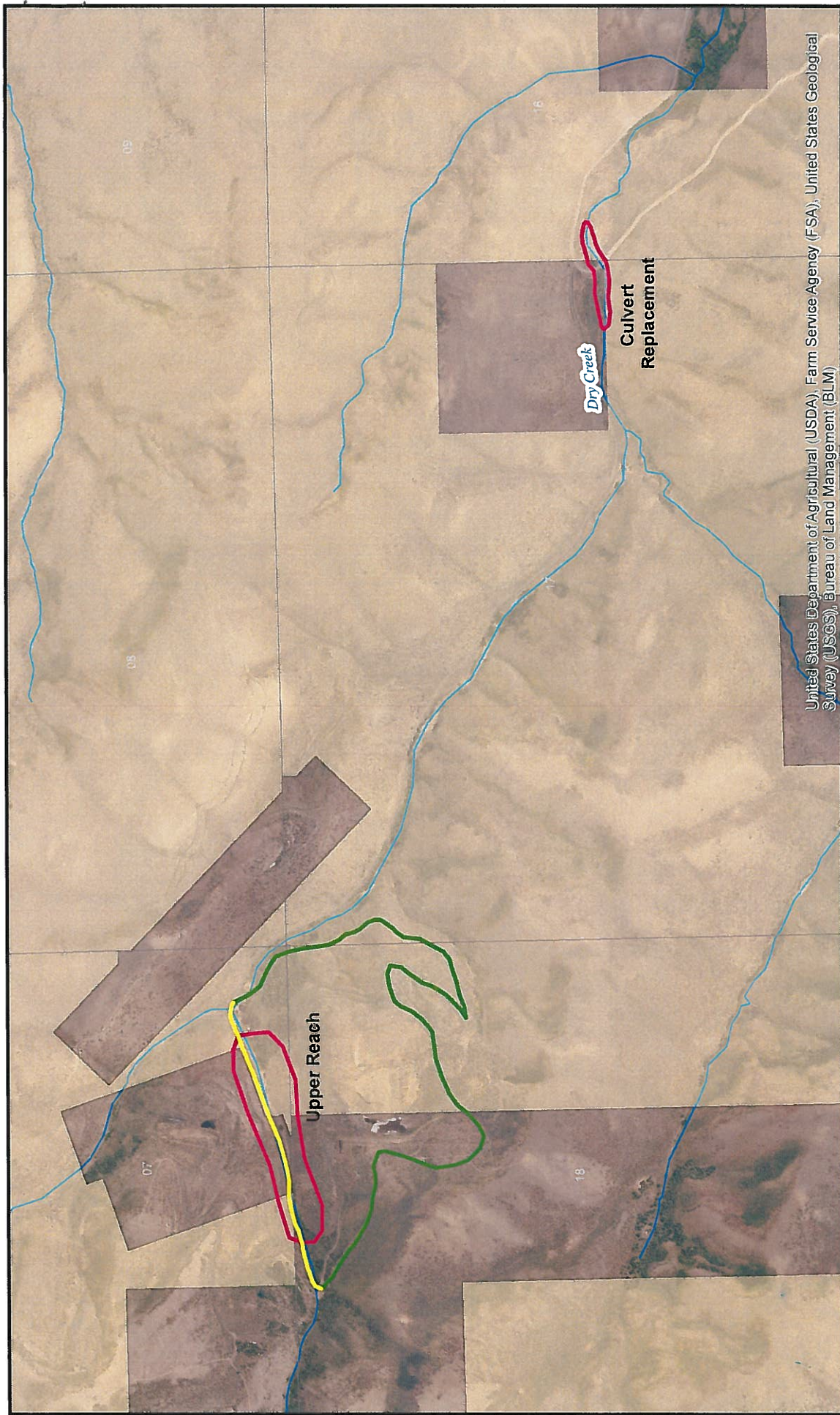


Marc Jackson  
Field Manager  
Wells Field Office

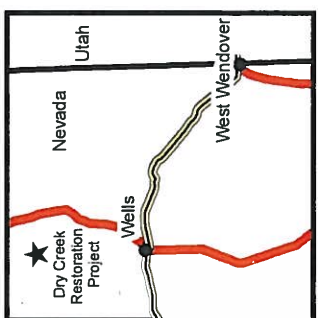
Enclosures

Cc: (mailing list attached, 3 pages)





United States Department of Agricultural (USDA), Farm Service Agency (FSA), United States Geological Survey (USGS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM)



Utah  
Nevada  
Wells  
West Wendover  
Dry Creek Restoration Project



Data is published in:  
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November 29, 2017

### Dry Creek Restoration Project T. 42 N., R. 62 E., Sections 7, 16, 17 & 18

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
ELKO DISTRICT OFFICE



- Legend**
- Proposed Road Removal
  - Proposed Road Re-Route
  - Restoration Areas
  - Streams and Rivers
- Land Status**
- BLM
  - Private

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