



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Stillwater Field Office
5665 Morgan Mill Road
Carson City, Nevada 89701
<http://www.blm.gov/nv>



3 AUG '20 PM 1:30

JUL 30 2020

Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management, Carson City District, Stillwater Field Office, has prepared a preliminary environmental assessment (PEA) to analyze the direct, indirect and cumulative effects from issuing a new term livestock grazing permit for the Edwards Creek, Porter Canyon and Carson Allotments and managed by Smith Creek Ranch Co., LTD.

The BLM is seeking public comment and input on this PEA and public input under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for the project. The PEA will be available for a 30-day public review and comment period from July 31 through August 30, 2020.

The Edwards Creek, Carson, and Porter Canyon Allotments are adjoining allotments located along the Desatoya Mountains, about 60 miles east of Fallon, and 30 miles west-southwest of Austin, along the Churchill and Lander County lines (map enclosed). The Edwards Creek and Carson Allotments lie within the BLM Carson City District (CCD) within Churchill County. The Porter Canyon Allotment lies within the Battle Mountain District within Lander County; however, all three allotments are administered by the CCD Stillwater Field Office. Collectively, the allotments encompass approximately 194,579 acres of public lands, and 3,629 acres of private lands.

The EA analyzed four alternatives:

- 1) *Alternative 1: Proposed Action: Outcome Based Grazing Alternative (OBGA)*. The OBGA was developed by the BLM and the permittee to allow for attainment of the RAC Standards and Guidelines while allowing for flexibility in grazing management.
- 2) *Alternative 2: Prescriptive Rotation* was developed to provide a more prescriptive alternative with less flexibility than the OBGA.
- 3) *Alternative 3: No Action Alternative* would allow continuation of the current grazing system and is being brought forward for a detailed analysis to provide a baseline from which to compare the alternatives.
- 4) *Alternative 4: No Grazing Alternative* is also used as a baseline for comparison with the other alternatives.

A copy of the PEA and other documents are available on-line at: <https://go.usa.gov/xfPUV>. If you do not have access to a computer or internet, contact Melanie Hornsby at 775-350-0331 for assistance.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised 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 from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot

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guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety. After the public comment period has ended, comments will be analyzed and considered part of the decision-making process.

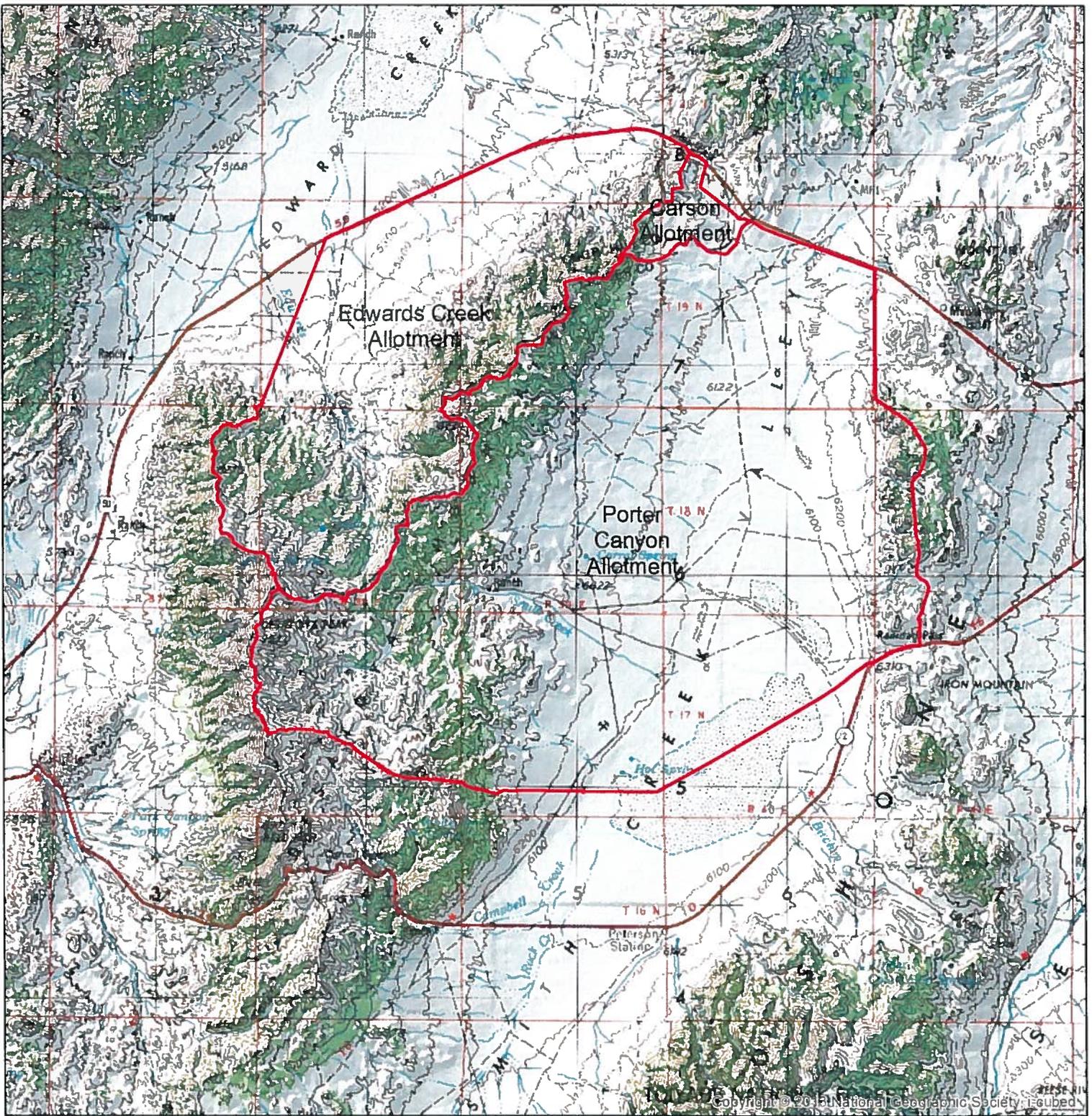
If you have any questions or information about identifying historic properties, please contact Christine McCollum, Archaeologist. For all other questions regarding this project, please contact Stacy Sylvester, Range Management Specialist. Both can be reached at 775-885-6000 or at the above address.

Sincerely,

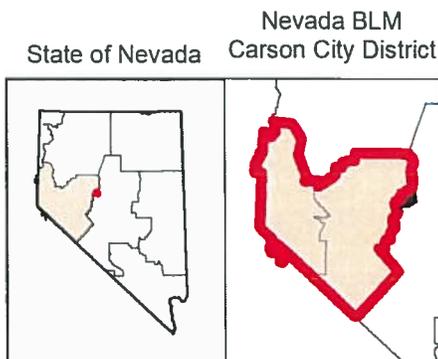
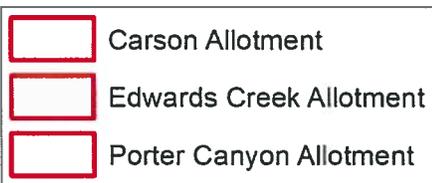
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kenneth R. Collum". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Kenneth R. Collum
Field Manager
Stillwater Field Office

enclosure



Edwards Creek, Carson, and Porter Canyon Allotments



United States Department of the Interior
 Bureau of Land Management
 Carson City District Office
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