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CONTACT: Beth Short

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Phone: 702- 295-0814 702**-**528-3488

Air Force fire burns 20,000 acres at military base

Las Vegas—The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) today announced that the lightening caused Air Force Fire started Friday, June 3 has burned about 20,000 acres at Nellis Air Force Base approximately 25 miles east of Beatty, Nev.

There are no injuries and no structures have burned or been threatened; however, on Monday the fire burned onto the test site around 1:00 p.m.

"The fire made a pretty good run over the last couple of days, but the crews are making good progress," said Kevin Oliver BLM Fire Management Officer. "We are hoping to have the fire contained by the weekend."

Currently there are 480 fire personnel on the scene consisting of 14 hand crews, nine air tankers, and seven helicopters. The BLM is the lead agency on this fire --other agencies include the U.S. Forest Service and the Departments of Defense and Energy.

The fire is burning mainly in moderately concentrated brush fuels in rocky terrain. Fire crews are being flown into the area, and the air tankers are using heavy retardant to aid suppression efforts. According to current reports the fire appears to be moving slowly at a south-easterly direction.