WHITE PINE COUNTY

SHOOTING RANGE ENHANCEMENT

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR) Program
Grant #F16AF00393

November 28, 2016

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1.0 Summary

The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) has applied for a Wildlife Restoration Act grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR) Program, to help fund the enhancement of the existing White Pine County (WPC) shooting range. The project is located just east of the town of Ely, in White Pine County, Nevada.

The grant award has been specially conditioned, requiring environmental compliance be completed prior to final obligation and use of these funds. This environmental assessment (EA) is being prepared to fulfill WSFR's environmental obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) prior to releasing funding to construct the project.

The grant period for completing the project would be from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2016. Awarded costs would be $35,000 in federal Wildlife Restoration Act funds and $11,667 in matching state funds to come from volunteer and matching funds from WPC and other organizations. NDOW proposes to sub-grant these funds to WPC for implementing and constructing the project.

The project includes doubling the rifle shooting distance currently available. The current Archery Range will be brought to National Field Archery Association (NFAA) standards. Additionally, a new trap range, pistol range, special use area, handicap access/parking, restrooms, and concrete walkways leading from the parking area to shooting areas will be constructed. Furthermore, perimeter fencing will be constructed around the shooting range for safety. The "Training Area" area, shown Figure 6, will have a concrete pad constructed so that in the near future, if additional funding can be found, a building can be constructed to have meeting space available for classes, hunter safety training, etc. Appendix A contains diagrams showing the design of all these features.

2.0 Background

In 1983, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) leased 670 acres of land to WPC using a Recreation and Public Purposes Act lease, for the sole purpose of a shooting range. In 1992, the BLM patented and conveyed 580 acres of the land by deed (Appendix C) to WPC. Over the past 30 years, the shooting range has deteriorated to the point that local citizens were seldom using it and target shooting was taking place in scattered areas throughout the county on public lands. The proposed project includes: adding a fence that was originally requested by the BLM back in 1983, but was waived at that time due to cost; removing and replacing shooting benches and shades at the existing rifle range; and building a new pistol range, shotgun trap range, parking lot, improving a 3-D archery range, and pouring a pad for a future building to be used for training and hunter education.

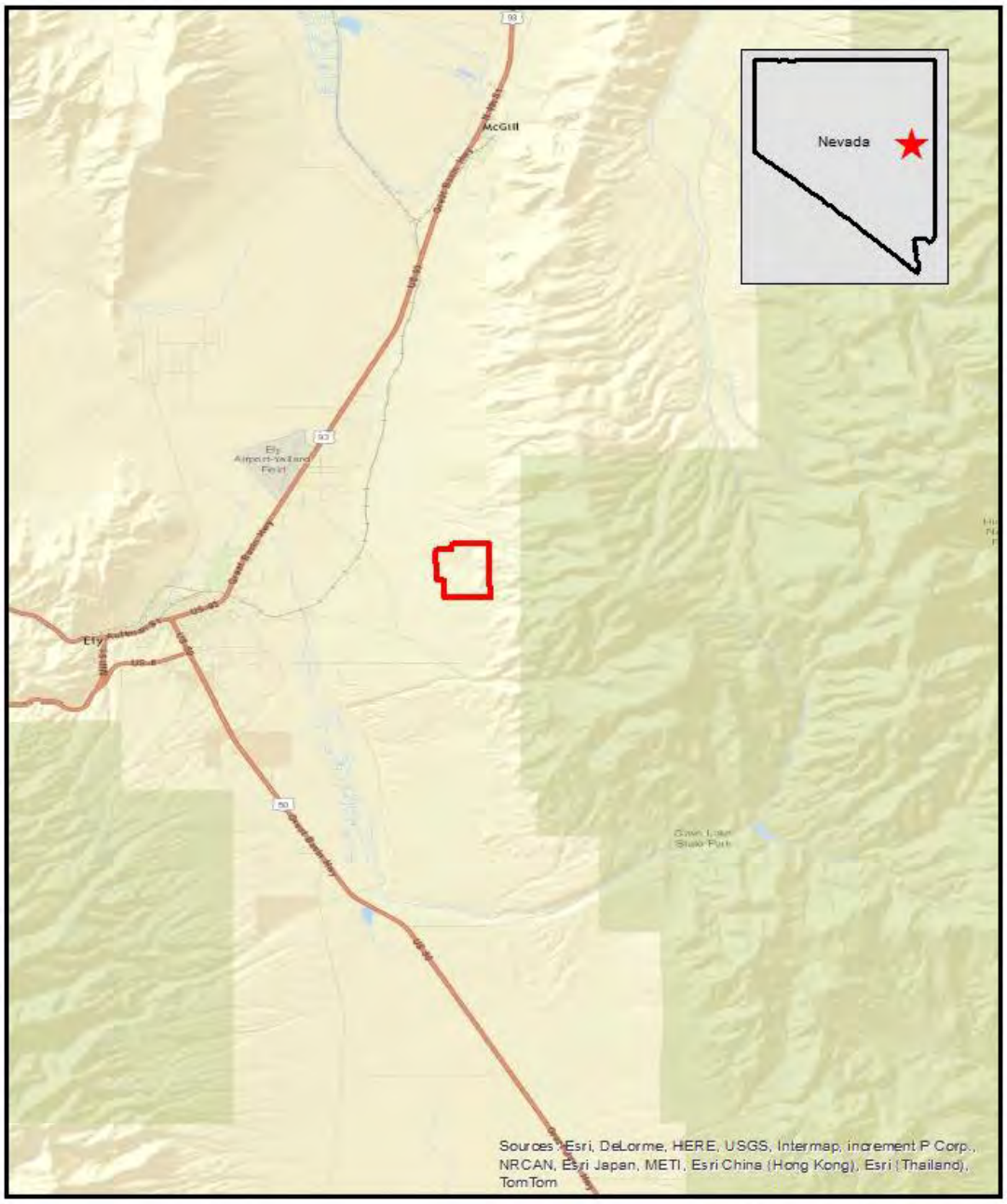
3.0 Location

The 580-acre project is located approximately 4 miles east of the town of Ely, in White Pine County, Nevada, at 1000 County Standard Road 820, Ely, Nevada, 89301. The land is zoned as Open Range 5 acres and is on BLM administered public lands. See Figures 1 and 2 for maps showing the project location. The Pubic Land Survey System areas included in this project are specifically listed in the table included in Figure 2.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Figure 1: White Pine County Shooting Range Location

Vicinity Map



Project Boundary (580-acres)

The USFWS makes no warranty for use of this map and cannot be held liable for actions or decisions based on map content.

0 1 2 4 Miles

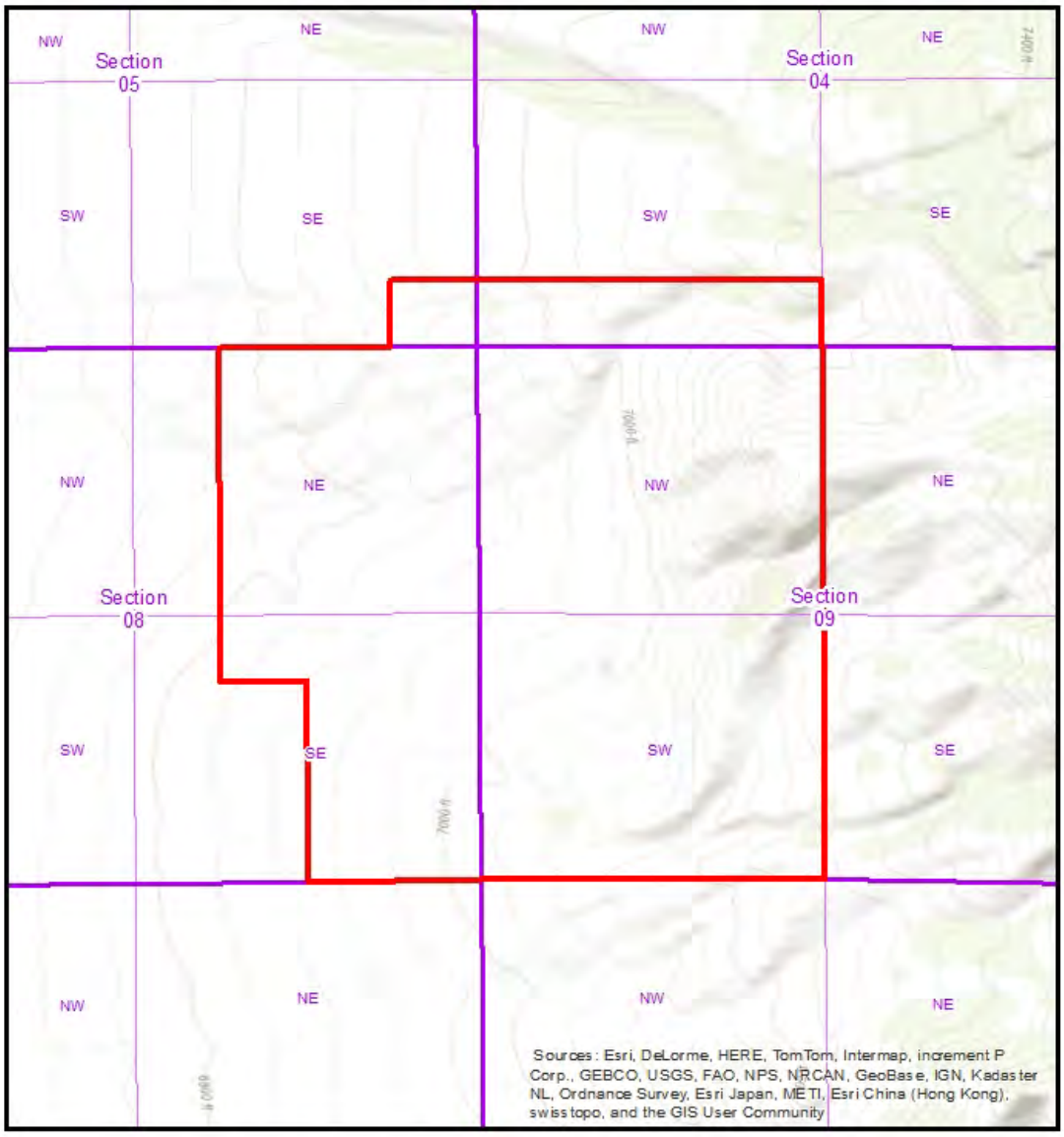
WGS 84

Date: 12/2/2015

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Figure 2: White Pine County Shooting Range Location

Public Land Survey System (PLSS)



Township	Range	Meridian	Section	Subdivisions
16 N	64 E	Mt Diablo	4	S 1/2 S 1/2 SW 1/4
			5	SE 1/4 SE 1/4 SE 1/4
			8	E 1/2 NE 1/4
			8	E 1/2 W 1/2 NE 1/4
			8	E 1/2 SE 1/4
			8	NE 1/4 NW 1/4 SE 1/4
			9	W 1/2

Project Boundary (580-acres)
PLSS Sections
PLSS Quarter Sections

0 0.075 0.15 0.3 Miles

WGS 84

Date: 12/2/2015

4.0 Purpose of the Proposed Action

The primary purpose of WSFR's federal action is to approve of NDOW's grant application for Wildlife Restoration Act funds. NDOW intends to sub-grant these funds to WPC for construction of the project. WPC's stated purpose of the project is to do necessary improvements to the existing shooting range to provide a safe environment for the public to enjoy shooting sports.

With the improvements, there is an expectation that more of the public will use the range, removing much of the need for dispersed, undeveloped and temporary shooting ranges on public land. The perimeter fencing will improve public safety. The addition of the parking area and concrete walkways will increase access to handicapped individuals while at the same time decreasing dust. The addition of restrooms will also increase convenience and sanitation for users of the facility. With the improvement of the current ranges and the addition of a shotgun range, the area will be equipped to host sanctioned events bringing money into the local community. The current Archery Range will be brought to National Field Archery Association (NFAA) standards.

A secondary purpose of this project is to facilitate future facilities that can be used for NDOW hunter education purposes. NDOW currently lacks adequate facilities in the area to fulfill demand for their hunter education courses. Currently, they must rent facilities in which to hold hunter education classes, most of which do not provide adequate areas to demonstrate safe firearm and hunter education practices, especially live-fire demonstrations. To meet this demand, the Special Use area will have a concrete pad placed so that in the near future, if additional funding can be secured, a building can be constructed to provide a place for NDOW hunter education classes.

5.0 Need for the Action

One of the eligible activities under the Wildlife Restoration Act is to provide funding for projects to, “Construct, operate, or maintain firearm and archery ranges for public use.” [50 CFR 80.50(b)(2)].

The WPC Shooting Range was built in the mid-1980’s and has had little or no improvements in the past 20 years. Much of the population of WPC participates in outdoor recreation, including hunting and shooting sports. Due to the lack of improvements at the range, shooters often go out onto public lands and set up their own temporary shooting ranges, increasing garbage on public lands and the possibility of wildlife fires. Poor lead practices may also potentially result. By improving the range, increasing access for the handicapped members of the public and providing more shooting practice opportunities, the public will be more likely to utilize the local range rather than travelling further from town and setting up on public lands. Range personnel have reported an increase in use of the current facilities as a result of area clean-up, removal of old deteriorated structures, and the addition of just a few extra shooting benches. There is also a need for fencing of the area to make it safer for the public recreating on public lands surrounding the range as well as improving the facility to meet Americans with Disability Act (ADA) requirements.

Additionally, NDOW is also in need of more diverse and distributed areas across the state in which state mandated Hunter Education courses can be provided to the public. This project will construct a concrete foundation, with the intent of providing future construction of a hunter education building, providing a more convenient location for the public in these remote areas to access better quality hunter education opportunities.

6.0 Scoping/Public Participation

According to NDOW, a number of entities have been involved in the process of developing this project, including the City of Ely, White Pine County, the White Pine County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife, the White Pine County Sheriff’s Office, White Pine 4H Shooting Sports, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, Bristlecone Bowmen and more than 20 businesses and nonprofit groups. As a part of WPC’s 2015 sub-granting application to NDOW, letters of support (Appendix B) have been provided by the following organizations; White Pine County 4H Shooting Sports, University of Nevada

Cooperative Extension, Bristlecone Bowmen, Friends of NRA, Ely Shoshone Tribe, White Pine County Sheriff's Office, and Steptoe Valley Shooting Group. To date, there are no known oppositions to the project.

On March 28, 2016, WSFR posted a 30-day notice of our draft EA and opportunity for comment, in both the City of Ely's paper and on our web-site at: http://www.fws.gov/cno/conservation/wsfr.cfm

NDOW and WPC provided a copy of it as well at the following offices:

- Nevada Department of Wildlife, 1218 North Alpha Road Ely, NV 89301
- White Pine County, 297 11th Street, Suite #2, Ely, NV 89301

7.0 Alternatives

7.1 Alternative A (Proposed Action): The proposed action is the approval of the grant award to enhance the existing shooting range. See Figure 6 for a map of the proposed enhancement locations and Appendix A for diagrams of the proposed structures. More specifically, the enhancements are to:

- Double the shooting distance currently available.
- The current Archery Range will be brought to National Field Archery Association (NFAA) standards.
- Constructing new:
  - Trap range
  - Pistol range
  - Special use area (Area for special outdoor classes like tracking and survival)
  - Handicap access/parking
  - Concrete walkways leading from the parking area to shooting areas.
  - Perimeter fencing (Figure 7)
  - Restrooms (Donated)
  - Earthen berms for safety and lead containment.

7.2 Alternative B (No Action): The no action alternative would be the disapproval of the grant award. With no action, funds for the project would not be secured and the range is not likely to be enhanced in the near future, and would likely continue to get used at its current level. Without the proposed improvements, shooters who are currently using off-site public lands would be expected to continue doing so, contributing to more impacts on wildlife, habitat and the non-shooting public. Without a perimeter fence, the risk of a member of the public accidently travelling onto the range and being injured is increased. Without the improved parking areas and concrete walkways access to handicapped individuals will be limited.

7.3 Alternative C (Alternate Location): Under this alternative, a new shooting range at an alternate location would be constructed and no improvements would be implemented at the existing facility. This would likely have a greater impact on the environment in a new area that is not currently being used as a range. A new location would have to be identified with new assessments to be made. It would greatly increase the costs and time involved. Without having a suitable place already identified, other obstacles of more significant impact on wildlife, people, and the economy may occur. This alternative would also leave the existing shooting range unimproved and continue to be problematic for safety and access reasons.

7.4 Summary of Actions by Alternatives

ACTIONS	ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C
Land Ownership Currently Secured	YES	YES	NO
Public Accessibility	YES	YES	UNKNOWN
Site Development	YES	NO	YES
Disturbance Acreage	55 acres	0	500 acres
Utilities Present	Electricity Only	Electricity Only	UNKNOWN
Habitat Present	YES	YES	UNKNOWN
Risk of Conflicts	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Meet WR Purpose	YES	NO	UNKNOWN

8.0 Affected Environment & Environmental Consequences

The project is located approximately 4 miles east of the town of Ely, in the Great Basin area of eastern Nevada. The elevation of the area is between 6700 – 7200 feet above sea level. Bailey (1995) describes this ecoregion as the *Nevada-Utah Mountains Semi-desert - Coniferous Forest - Alpine Meadow Province*. Table 1 and Figures 3-5 describe the evaluation of the affected environment and the expected environmental consequences. The conclusions of this evaluation are summarized below:

8.1 Alternative A (Proposed Action): The proposed action would meet the stated purpose and need of the grant application. In addition, it is expected to provide recreational, economic, environmental, and safety benefits for the public and local communities, while minimizing any adverse impacts to an insignificant level.

8.2 Alternative B (No Action): The stated purpose and need of the project would not be met and the project site would continue to serve as a shooting range with no enhancements to improve the facilities for design standards, safety, and the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Best Management Practices (BMP) for lead containment on shooting ranges.

8.3 Alternative C (Alternate Location): The stated purpose and need of the project may be met depending on the practicability of obtaining an alternate location and land suitable to accommodate the purpose and needs. However, based on the evaluation in this document, the time, costs and potential increase in adverse environmental effects over the proposed action does not appear to be a practical solution.

8.4 Table 1: Summary of Environmental Consequences by Alternative

Environmental Element	Environmental Sub-Element	Affected Environment	Alternative A (Proposed Action)	Alternative B (No Action)	Alternative C (Alternate Location)
Aesthetics		The project area has been used as a shooting range for over two decades. The remaining area surrounding the range is natural semi-desert habitat to the west with mountainous ranges and the Humboldt National Forest to the east.	Enhancements to the range are expected to improve the aesthetic appeal of the range to users by incorporating modern facilities and current range design standards. The additional enhancements to the existing range are not expected to impact the existing aesthetics of the natural environment surrounding the project area.	The site would likely deteriorate and adverse effects to the local aesthetic appeal of the range would continue, possibly deterring users and causing more off-site impacts to other public resource lands. There would be no impact to the aesthetics of the natural environment surrounding the project area.	Impacts would be dependent on the alternate location. However, construction of a new range at an alternate site could have adverse effects to the aesthetics of the area.
Agricultural resources	Grazing	According to BLM (1983), the site is in the West Schell Bench Allotment and was used for sheep grazing. The site possesses 45 AUMs which is 3 percent of the total preference for the West Schell Bench Allotment. According to NDOW, the site is not currently grazed.	As BLM (1983) notes, the site is only 3% of the total allotment. The enhancements to the existing range are not expected to appreciably increase this percentage. Impacts are expected to be insignificant.	No impacts to grazing beyond current conditions are expected.	Impacts would be dependent on the alternate location. However, construction of a new range at an alternate site could have adverse impacts to grazing.
Air quality		There are no known air quality issues in the project area. BLM (1983) stated that there would be no adverse ambient air quality impact.	Enhancements are likely to increase users, however, the impacts from additional shooting and vehicles beyond what is currently present are expected to be insignificant. Impacts to air quality are likely during construction, but are temporary and expected to be insignificant.	No impacts to air quality beyond current conditions are expected.	Construction of a new range at an alternate site would be expected to have greater short-term adverse impacts to air quality, as more construction would be necessary compared to the proposed action.

Environmental Element	Environmental Sub-Element	Affected Environment	Alternative A (Proposed Action)	Alternative B (No Action)	Alternative C (Alternate Location)
Biological	Vegetation / Habitat	According to BLM (1983), "The site is located in a black sage community. Principal plants in this community are black sage, western wheatgrass, bluebunch wheatgrass, cheatgrass, associated forbs, and shadscale - saltbrush. Pinyon and juniper trees are found in the drainages and the steep slopes of the upper (eastern) half of the site." According to a more recent evaluation of vegetation under LANDFIRE data (USDOI, 2014) the area is still predominately dominated by grassland and Pinyon-juniper habitats, but the northern portion of the site has been affected by recent fire. Additionally, according to Nevada Natural Heritage Database (NNHPD, 2013), there are occurrences of *Nachlinger catchfly* and *Pennell draba* in the vicinity of the project area. However, there are no occurrences known within the project area.	The foundations for the new ranges, parking areas and special use area will result in a loss of existing habitat. However, the footprints of these areas are very small compared to the available habitat in the area and only insignificant adverse impacts are expected.	No impacts to habitat beyond current conditions are expected.	Impacts would be dependent on the alternate location, but would likely require a greater footprint to accommodate the existing infrastructure that the current site already has. Impacts to habitat could be greater than the proposed action.
	Fish	Although there are intermittent streams within the project area, there are no known fish that occur within them. However, according to the Nevada Natural Heritage Database (NNHPD, 2013) there are several occurrences of relic dace outside the project area, about 4 miles downstream on Steptoe Creek.	Since there are no known fisheries within the project area, no direct impact to fish are expected. Construction of stream crossings to facilitate access to new range enhancements could cause erosion and sedimentation that may be transported off-site and downstream where fisheries are known to occur. However, construction best management practices are expected to avoid and minimize any transport of sedimentation off-site.	No impacts to fish are expected.	Impacts would be dependent on the alternate location, but would likely require a greater footprint to accommodate the existing infrastructure that the current site already has. Impacts to fish could be greater than the proposed action.

Environmental Element	Environmental Sub-Element	Affected Environment	Alternative A (Proposed Action)	Alternative B (No Action)	Alternative C (Alternate Location)
	Wildlife	According to BLM (1983), "The site is inhabited or used by a wide variety of animals typically found in the Great Basin. Typical animals include raptors, passerines, deer, elk, rabbits, mice, reptiles, and amphibians. The site is known to possess one ferruginous hawk nesting site. Elk utilize the area in spring. Mule deer utilize the area from spring through early fall" According to NNHPD (2013) there are occurrences of Nachlinger catchfly in the vicinity of the project area, but none known to occur within the project area. BLM also states that their data indicates 2 greater sage grouse nesting sites within the project area and 2 additional within one mile plus an active lek within 1.5 miles. BLM further stated that there are 2 ferruginous hawk nesting sites within the project boundaries. NDOW stated that pronghorn antelope and sage grouse are present, and that there is a lek 2.2.miles to the south. The area is also considered core sage grouse habitat. NDOW also stated that due to previous fires the habitat of the area has become less suitable for wildlife. NDOW also notes that due to previous fires, the burned areas are now dominated by cheat-grass which has resulted in a loss of sage grouse and mule deer habitat in the project area.	Fencing is not expected to impact the movement of small animals, but may impact the movement of large animals that utilize the area. However, the applicant is proposing the use of wildlife-friendly fencing design (Figure 7) that will minimize impacts to large mammals. Given the benefit of wildlife friendly fencing and the relatively small area that would be fenced compared to the surrounding open range habitat, the adverse impacts to wildlife are expected to be insignificant. While the proposed project area has been known to contain sage grouse nesting areas and leks in the surrounding area, this proposed project is nearly the same footprint as the existing shooting range. As such, effects to wildlife are not expected to be much different than existing conditions. NDOW has also committed to establishing "green-stripping" around the perimeter of the shooting range to minimize adverse effects of potential fires on adjacent wildlife habitat.No trees with hawk nesting sites are known to be impacted. Given the existing habitat conditions and minimization measures proposed, effects to wildlife and it's habitat are expected to be insignificant.	No impacts to wildlife beyond current conditions are expected.	Impacts would be dependent on the alternate location, but would likely require a greater footprint to accommodate the existing infrastructure that the current site already has. Impacts to wildlife could be greater than the proposed action.
	Wilderness Area	According to the BLM (1983) and BLM (2008) data, no designated wilderness areas are present in the project area.	No wilderness areas present in the project area. No impacts are expected.	No wilderness areas present in the project area. No impacts are expected.	Impacts would be dependent on the alternate location, but an alternate site may cause adverse impacts if the area is within or near a wilderness area.

Environmental Element	Environmental Sub-Element	Affected Environment	Alternative A (Proposed Action)	Alternative B (No Action)	Alternative C (Alternate Location)
	Endangered Species	The USFWS (2015) and NNHP (2013) data, plus the BLM (1983) document, do not indicate any known species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) that might be present in the project area. USFWS Ecological Services Reno Fish & Wildlife Office concurred that there were no known ESA listed species present and as such no ESA issues (2016).	No impact to ESA species is expected.	No impact to ESA species is expected.	Impacts would be dependent on the alternate location, but an alternate site may cause adverse impacts if the area is within or near ESA species or their habitat.
	Critical Habitat	There is no known critical habitat designated under the ESA within the project area (USFWS 2015).	No impact to critical habitat is expected.	No impact to critical habitat is expected.	Impacts would be dependent on the alternate location, but an alternate site may cause adverse impacts if the area is within or near critical habitat.
	Wetlands	The National Wetlands Inventory (NWI 2015) does not show any wetlands within the project area. However, intermittent streams do cross the property. See Figure 3 for a map showing the streams within the project area according to the National Hydrography Dataset (USGS 2015).	According to USGS (Figure 3), intermittent streams do cross the property. NDOW notes these streams are supported by snow melt. Small portions of the streams could be adversely impacted by road crossings needed to reach the enhancements proposed. These impacts are expected to be insignificant, as WPC has stated in their application (2015) that they will follow the EPA's BMPs for shooting ranges (2005). These BMPs describe ways in which the ranges can be constructed to avoid and minimize adverse water quality impacts from storm-water runoff. NDOW has indicated no Clean Water Act permit is expected to be needed.	No impact to streams is expected.	Impacts would be dependent on the alternate location, but an alternate site may cause adverse impacts if the area is within wetlands or other waterbodies.
Cultural	National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)	The USFWS's Cultural Resources Team (2013) has stated, "…there are no historic properties within the Area of Potential Effects and thus, there will be no affects to cultural resources by the improvements to the gun range." It is unknown if sub-surface resources may be present.	No impacts to cultural resources under NHPA are expected. However, to ensure any undiscovered resources are evaluated, as a condition of the grant funds, any unknown sub-surface historic properties discovered during construction would require the applicant to cease all work in that area until NHPA requirements are met.	No impact to NHPA resources is expected.	Impacts would be dependent on the alternate location, but an alternate site may cause adverse impacts if the area contains NHPA resources.
	Tribal	WPC consulted with the local tribe and the Ely Shoshone Tribe (2013) of the area has stated that the undertaking has no significant impact on tribal lands or the tribal community at this time.	No impact to tribes is expected.	No impact to tribes is expected.	Impacts would be dependent on the alternate location, but an alternate site may cause adverse impacts if the area contains tribal interests.

Environmental Element	Environmental Sub-Element	Affected Environment	Alternative A (Proposed Action)	Alternative B (No Action)	Alternative C (Alternate Location)
Geology and Soils		According to the BLM (1983), a soil survey for this area was conducted in 1981, and the majority of the site is located on an alluvial fan. The soils are shallow, calcerous, and loamy. See Figure 4 for a map showing the soils within the project area according to the USDA (2015).	Some minimal impacts to the soils would occur from construction of the project features.	No impact to soils is expected.	Impacts would be dependent on the alternate location, but would likely require a greater footprint impact to accommodate the existing infrastructure that the current site already has. Additionally, an alternate site may cause greater impacts if the area contains unique soils or geology that requires special considerations.
	Topography	According to BLM (1983), "The site forms a natural bowl and it is transected by two major drainages. The lower portion (west half) of the site has an average slope of 7.5%. In three quarters of a mile the terrain rises 300 feet. The east half of the site consists of a mountain slope with an average slope· of 28.7% which rises 400 feet in a quarter of a mile." Since this evaluation by BLM, range features and roads have been constructed that affect the topography of the site to a minor extent. See Figure 4 for map of the general topography of the site. Figure 5 is a 2015 aerial photo of the site with current range features shown.	Construction of project features will alter topography within the footprints of those features. To accommodate design standards, most of these footprints will be graded generally level, with some angled grading to provide proper drainage and management of storm-water.	No impacts to topography are expected.	Impacts would be dependent on the alternate location, but would likely require a greater footprint impact to accommodate the existing infrastructure that the current site already has. Due to the increased footprint needed for this alternative, greater impacts to topography would likely occur.
Greenhouse gases		The project area is currently used as a shooting range. Other than existing automobiles from visitors and maintenance vehicles, there are no other know elements of the project that would substantially contribute to greenhouse gases.	No substantial impacts to greenhouse gases are expected from the project enhancements beyond the current conditions.	No impacts to greenhouse gasses are expected.	Impacts to greenhouse gases are expected to be greater than the proposed alternative, as there would be a need for increased construction vehicles and carbon emissions from the larger footprint to accommodate the existing infrastructure that the current site already has.

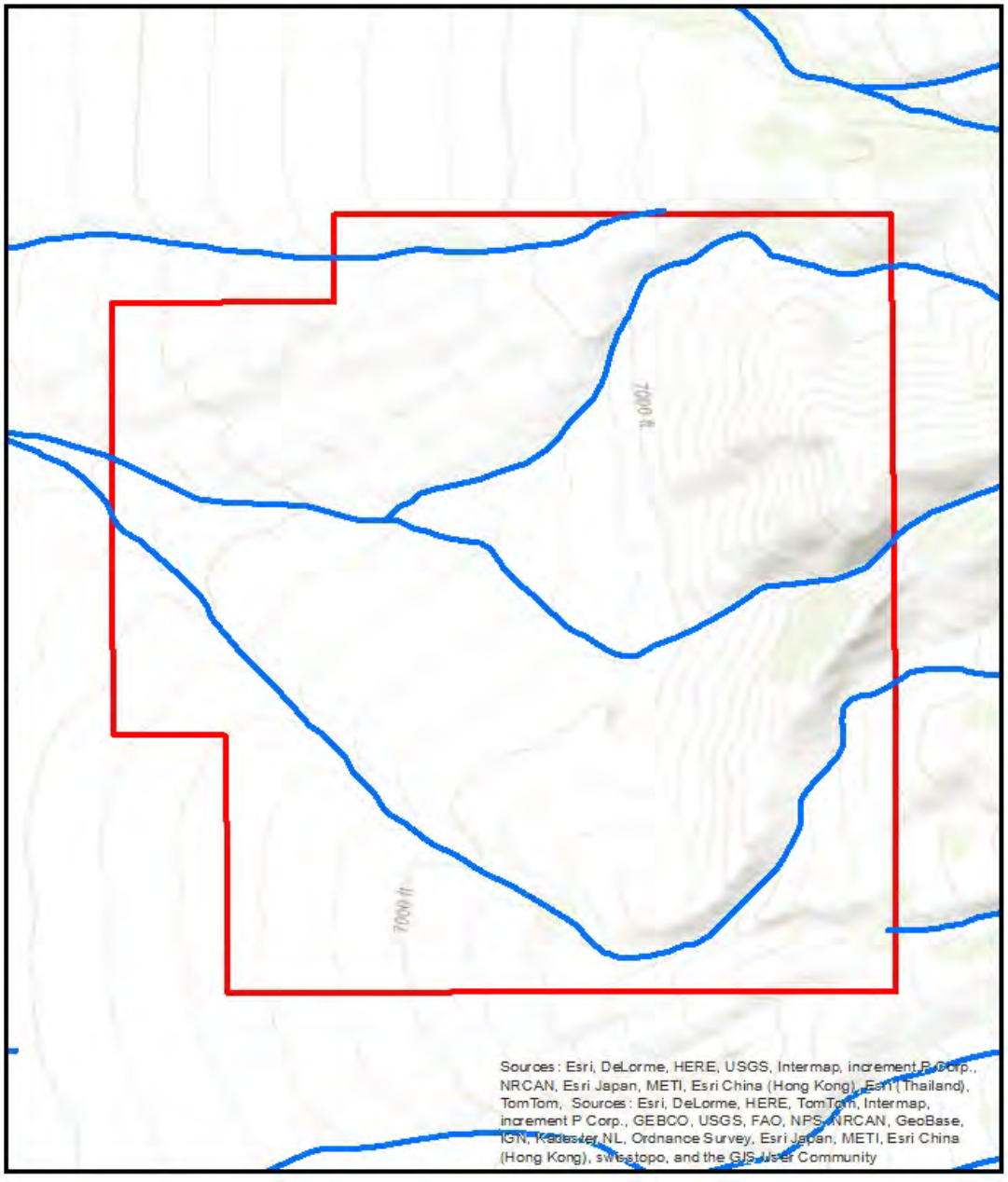
Environmental Element	Environmental Sub-Element	Affected Environment	Alternative A (Proposed Action)	Alternative B (No Action)	Alternative C (Alternate Location)
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	Lead	The project area has been used as a shooting range for over two decades. The project area is likely to contain spent lead and ammunition, mostly contained with existing shooting berms.	Project enhancements will likely attract additional users to the area, with more potential for spent lead deposition in the area. However, WPC has stated in their application (2015) that they will follow the EPAs BMPs for shooting ranges (2005). Provided these BMP are incorporated into final designs and construction, only insignificant impacts are expected.	The project site would continue to serve as a shooting range with no enhancements to improve the facilities to current design standards or EPA's BMPs for shooting ranges. Without incorporation of these standards and BMPs, the potential effects of lead from continued use or lack of lead containment could cause greater adverse effects than the proposed action.	Impacts from lead are expected to be similar to the proposed alternative. The alternative site would likely add to the impacts of lead by distribution of lead in another area since the current site would continue to serve as a shooting range too. This would cause a problem with lead containment in two areas rather than one.
Hydrology and Water Quality		The site has several streams that generally flow from east to west. There are no known water quality issues within the project area. Figure 3 gives a general sense of the hydrology of the area.	The project features are expected to have an insignificant impact on the current hydrology and water quality of the project site. Grading will be done to manage and redirect storm-water flows from the footprints of the project features. Road crossings of streams would be constructed to allow for unrestricted flows. WPC has stated in their application (2015) that they will follow the EPA's BMPs for shooting ranges (2005). These BMPs describe ways in which the ranges can be constructed to avoid and minimize adverse water quality impacts from storm-water runoff.	The project site would continue to serve as a shooting range with no enhancements to improve the facilities to current design standards or EPA's BMPs for shooting ranges. Without incorporation of these standards and BMPs, the site may continue to be developed ad-hoc without these standards, possibly leading to other adverse hydrology and water quality impacts.	Impacts would be dependent on the alternate location, but would likely require a greater footprint impact to accommodate the existing infrastructure that the current site already has. Due to the increased footprint needed for this alternative, greater impacts to topography or water quality would likely occur.
Land Use and Planning		The project is located in the WPC Land Use Plan (2009). WPC received the current land for the White Pine County Shooting Range from a BLM patent in 1992. BLM (1983) stated that, "The proposed use of the site does not conflict with the White Pine County master plan. The shooting range project is supported by the Regional Planning Commission and the County Commissioners." BLM (1983) also stated that, "The site does not possess any right-of-ways." BLM further stated that the proposed project is in conformance with their 2008 Ely District Approved Management Plan.	The project features appear consistent with the WPC Land Use Plan (2009). BLM stated that the proposed project is in conformance with their 2008 Ely District Approved Management Plan. As such, no adverse impacts to land use or planning are expected.	No impacts to land use or planning are expected.	Impacts would be dependent on the alternate location, but would likely occur in a suitable land use location. Due to the new location and increased footprint needed for this alternative, more resources and costs would likely be needed to accommodate more planning and land use approvals.

Environmental Element	Environmental Sub-Element	Affected Environment	Alternative A (Proposed Action)	Alternative B (No Action)	Alternative C (Alternate Location)
Mineral Resources		According to BLM (1983), "No mining claims are located on the site. However, two mining claims, Lucky Strike #1 (78856LB) and Lucky Strike #2 (78856LB) are located just to the northwest in section 5. These claims were recorded March 30, 1965. The Success Mining District is located to the east, unnamed to the north, and Robinson to the west."	There are no known mining claims in the project area and as such, no impacts to mineral resources are expected. No indirect impacts to mining claims near the project area are expected either.	No impacts to mineral recourses are expected.	Impacts would be dependent on the alternate location, but would likely require a greater footprint impact to accommodate the existing infrastructure that the current site already has. If mineral resources were present, more resources and costs would likely be needed to accommodate any issues or approvals.
Noise		The current shooting range produces noise from gun fire. However, According to BLM (1983), "The City of Ely is approximately 4.5 miles from the proposed shooting facility. The county fairgrounds are 3.6 miles away. There are no known houses within a mile of the proposed site." According to recent aerial photo of the area, this statement still reflects current conditions.	There would be noise from the initial construction of the project but these impacts would be temporary and are not likely to extend beyond the project area and are not likely affect nearby communities. The project enhancements are likely to increase the number of users and subsequent gunfire noise. However, the site has been used as a gun range for over two decades and the nearest communities potentially affected are over 3 miles from the project. The additional adverse impacts of noise from project enhancements are expected to be insignificant.	No impacts to noise are expected.	Impacts would be dependent on the alternate location, but would likely require a greater footprint impact to accommodate the existing infrastructure that the current site already has. Due to the new location and increased footprint needed for this alternative, impacts from noise would likely be greater than the proposed alternative. Additionally, new communities not previously affected by gun fire noise may be adversely impacted.
Population and Housing		According to BLM (1983), there are no known houses within a mile of the proposed site.	The project is not expected to impact housing or the general population. There may be some impacts from the project by attracting outside users to the area, potentially increasing population and residency in the area, especially if special shooting events are held.	No impacts to housing or population are expected.	Impacts would be dependent on the alternate location, but depending may have similar impacts as the proposed action.
Recreation		The project area currently provides beneficial recreational shooting opportunities.	This alternative is expected to have long-term beneficial impacts on recreation in the area, especially for recreational shooting, This alternative would provide enhanced recreational shooting opportunities for archers and long-distance shooting, plus provide additional capacity for recreational shooting events. The "special use" area proposed may also become a future administrative building that would provide hunter education facilities, thereby providing additional benefits for the recreational aspects of hunting.	This alternative would have adverse impacts on recreation, as it would preclude project enhancements that would benefit and attract recreational shooters and provide safety features for them. In particular, it would also preclude the special use area for potential future hunter education opportunities.	This alternative is expected to have similar impacts to the proposed action, as it would increase recreational shooting opportunities. Impacts would be dependent on the alternate location, but would likely require a greater footprint impact to accommodate the existing infrastructure that the current site already has.

Environmental Element	Environmental Sub-Element	Affected Environment	Alternative A (Proposed Action)	Alternative B (No Action)	Alternative C (Alternate Location)
Transportation and traffic		The current shooting range has primary roads already established. No new roads are proposed, however a parking lot for the shotgun range will be constructed. Figure 5 is an aerial photo of the site showing existing roads in the project area. There are no known transportation or traffic issues within the project area.	This alternative is expected to increase the usage of the shooting range. As such, additional traffic is expected to the area. However, the increased traffic beyond the current conditions is expected to be insignificant. This alternative proposes additional parking, including ADA access parking which is expected to provide additional benefits for traffic and transportation while also mitigating any negative increase in traffic.	This alternative would avoid adverse impacts from increased traffic, but would also preclude and adversely impact additional parking enhancements, ADA accessibility and walkways from being constructed.	This alternative is expected to have greater traffic impacts to the proposed alternative, as it would increase traffic in an area not previously subject to them. Greater impacts to natural resources would also likely occur.
Utilities and Service Systems		The only known utilities or services to the project area are for electricity.	Currently, there are no additional utilities known to be needed for this project. The special use area proposed for a concrete pad construction may require utilities once future plans for the structure are proposed. Depending on the type of utilities proposed, this may have very minimal to no impact on service systems.	No impact to utilities is expected.	This alternative is expected to have greater impacts on utilities that the proposed alternative, as it would likely require newly constructed facilities and utilities to support them.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Figure 3: White Pine County Shooting Range - Streams & Topography



Project Boundary (580-acres)

Stream *

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles

Datum: WGS 84

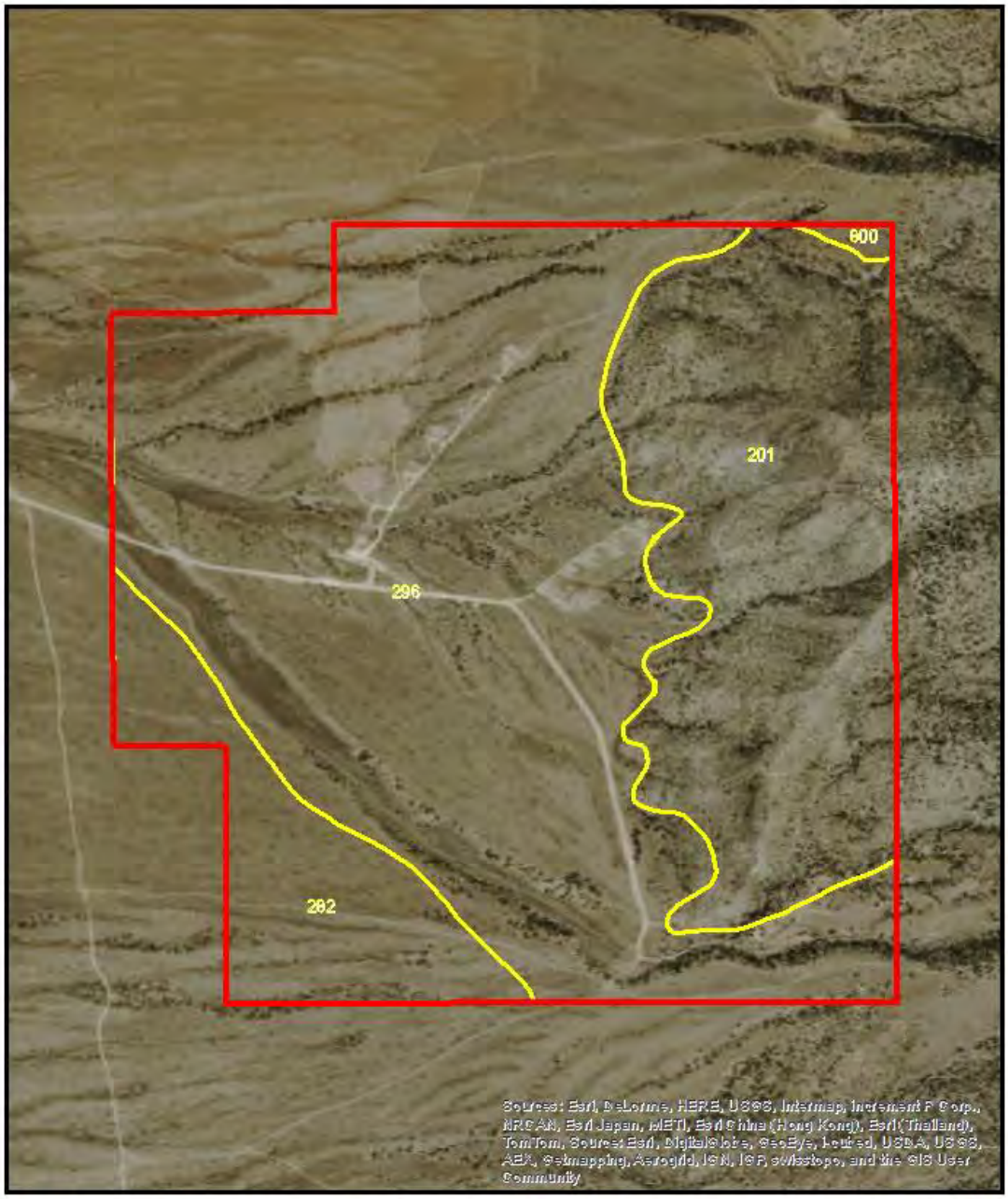
The USFWS makes no warranty for use of this map and cannot be held liable for actions or decisions based on map content.

Date: 12/3/2015

*U.S. Geological Survey - National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) Data Source: ftp://rockyftp.cr.usgs.gov/vdelivery/Datasets/Staged/HydroFile/GD6101/NHD_H_32_Nevada_ST.zip

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Figure 4: White Pine County Shooting Range - Soils



Project Boundary (580-acres)

NRCS Soil Survey *

SOILS LEGEND	
Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name
201	Mijoysee-Pookaloo-Tecomar association
282	Palinor very gravelly loam, 2 to 15 percent slopes
296	Palinor-Urmafot-Palinor, steep association
800	Broland association

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles

Datum: WGS 84

The USFWS makes no warranty for use of this map and cannot be held liable for actions or decisions based on map content.

Date: 1/23/2015

*Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Soils Data Source: http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Figure 5: White Pine County Shooting Range - Aerial Photo 2015

Project Boundary (580-acres)

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles

Datum: WGS 84

The USFWS makes no warranty for use of this map and cannot be held liable for actions or decisions based on map content.

Date: 12/4/2015

Figure 6: Map of Proposed White Pine County Shooting Range Enhancement Locations

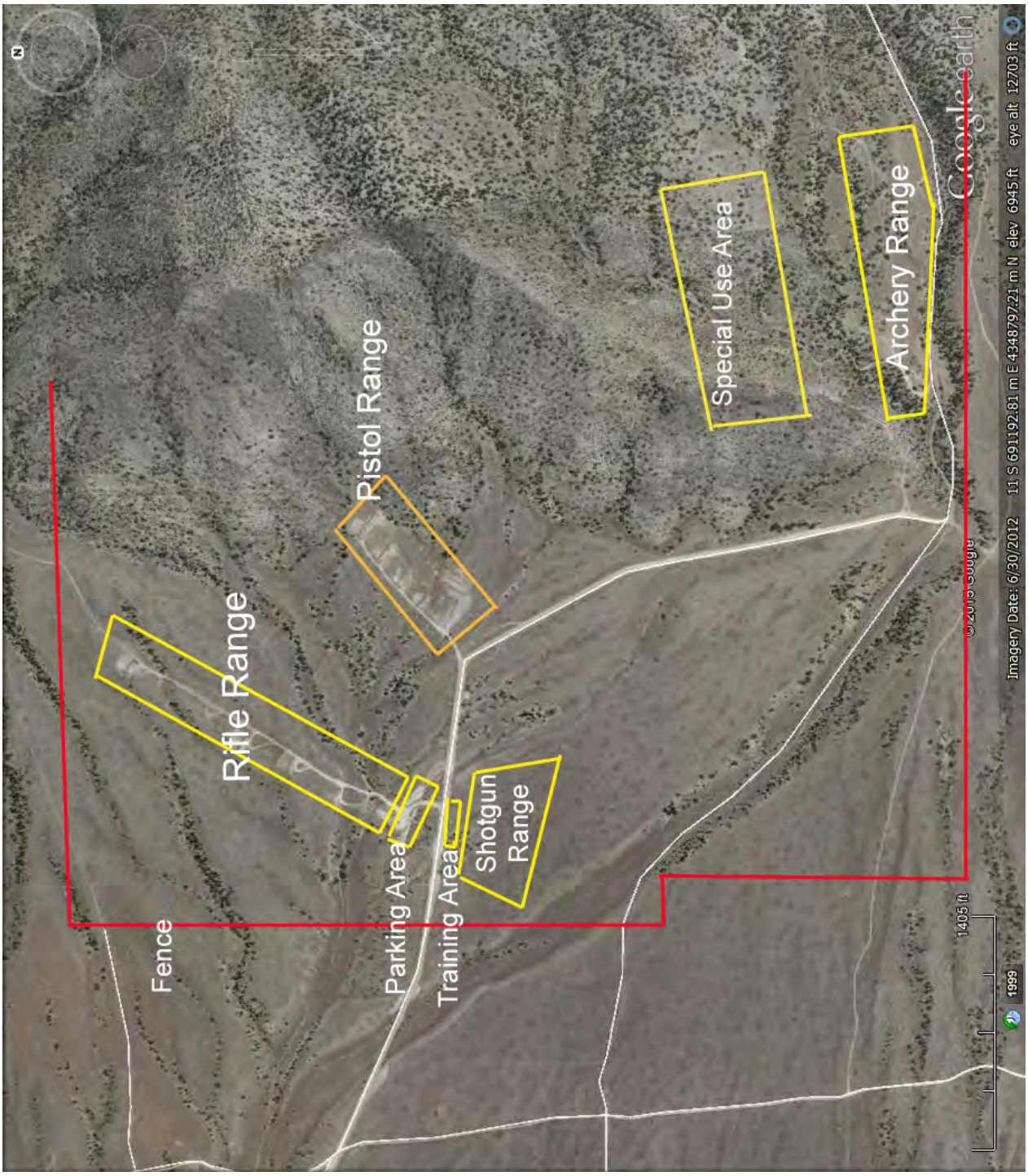
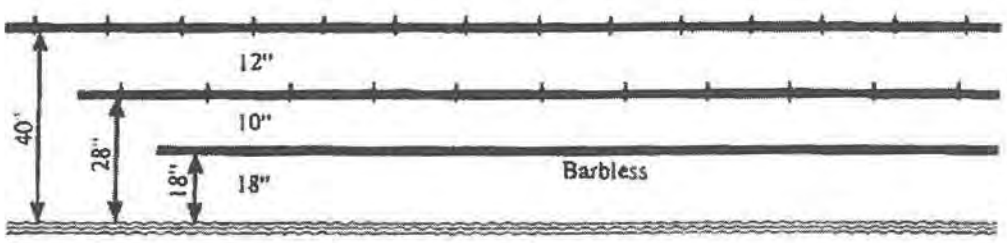


Figure 7: Proposed Wildlife Friendly Fencing

WHITE PINE SHOOTING RANGE

WILDLIFE FRIENDLY FENCE SPECIFICATIONS

The schematic below is the wildlife friendly fence configuration that will be built around the White Pine County shooting range. It will be a three strand fence with the bottom strand being made from smooth wire place 18 inches above the ground. The middle and top strands will be strung with barbed wire 28 inches and 40 inches above the ground respectively. This will allow smaller animals such as antelope to pass underneath the bottom strand, while those that need to go through the fence have a wider gap between the strands. Larger ungulates such as large mule deer and elk can pass over the lower height of 40 inches relatively easily. Reflectors will be placed along the top strand for sage grouse.



DEER/ELK/ANTELOPE HABITAT

9.0 List of Preparers

- Justin Cutler, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration Program, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825

With assistance from:

- Joe Doucette, Conservation Educator, Nevada Department of Wildlife, 60 Youth Center Road, Elko, NV 89801

- Elaine Blackham, White Pine County, Senior Management Assistant, Community and Economic Development, 957 Campton Street, Ely, NV 89301

10.0 List of Agencies, Organizations, and Persons Contacted

- Elaine Blackham, White Pine County, Senior Management Assistant, Community and Economic Development, 957 Campton Street, Ely, NV 89301
- Alicia Hankins, Land Law Examiner, Schell Field Office, U.S. Bureau of Land Management. HC 33 Box 33500 or 702 N. Industrial Way, Ely, NV 89301
- Joe Doucette, Conservation Educator, Nevada Department of Wildlife, 60 Youth Center Road, Elko, NV 89801
- Lou Ann Speulda-Drews, Historian/Historical Archaeologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1340 Financial Blvd, Suite 234, Reno, NV 89502
- Alvin S. Marques, Ely Shoshone Tribe, 16 Shoshone Circle, Ely NV 89301
- Bryan Cassedore, Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone, 525 Sunset Street, Elko, Nevada 89801
- Julia A. Stevens, Wells Band of Western Shoshone, PO Box 809, Wells, NV 89835
- Virginia Sanchez, Duckwater Shoshone Tribe, PO Box 140068, Duckwater, NV 89314
- Lynette Piffero, Elko Band of Shoshone, 1745 Silver Eagle Drive, Elko NV 89801
- Carolyn Swed, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Nevada Fish & Wildlife Office
- Curt Baughman, Nevada Department of Wildlife, 1218 N. Alpha Street, Ely, NV 89301
- Shawn Espinosa, Nevada Department of Wildlife, 1218 N. Alpha Street, Ely, NV 89301

- Jill Moore, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, 702 N. Industrial Way, Ely, NV 89301

11.0 Appendices

Appendix A – Map and diagrams of proposed features to be constructed.

Appendix B – Letters of support.

Appendix C – September 28, 1992, Deed from BLM to WPC for Shooting Range

Appendix D – Public Notice Comments

12.0 References

Bailey, Robert G. 1995. Description of the ecoregions of the United States (2nd ed.) Misc. Pub. No. 1391, USDA Forest Service.

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 2005. Best Management Practices for Lead at Outdoor Shooting Ranges, Revised June 2005 [EPA-902-B-01-001] http://www3.epa.gov/region02/waste/leadshot/epa_bmp.pdf

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), Cultural Resources Team. 2013. Letter regarding National Historic Preservation Act Compliance for the White Pine Gun Range Improvement Project. 2 pgs.

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 2015. National Hydrography Dataset (NHD), Best Resolution for Nevada 20151106 State or Territory FileGDB 10.1 ftp://rockyftp.cr.usgs.gov/vdelivery/Datasets/Staged/Hydro/FileGDB101/NHD_H_32_Nevada_ST.zip

U.S. Department of Interior (USDOI), Landfire http://landfire.gov/

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). 2014. Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) database for Western White Pine County Area, Nevada, Spatial Data, Dated August 24, 2014. http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP). 2015. White Pine County NAIP Mosaic. https://gdg.sc.egov.usda.gov/

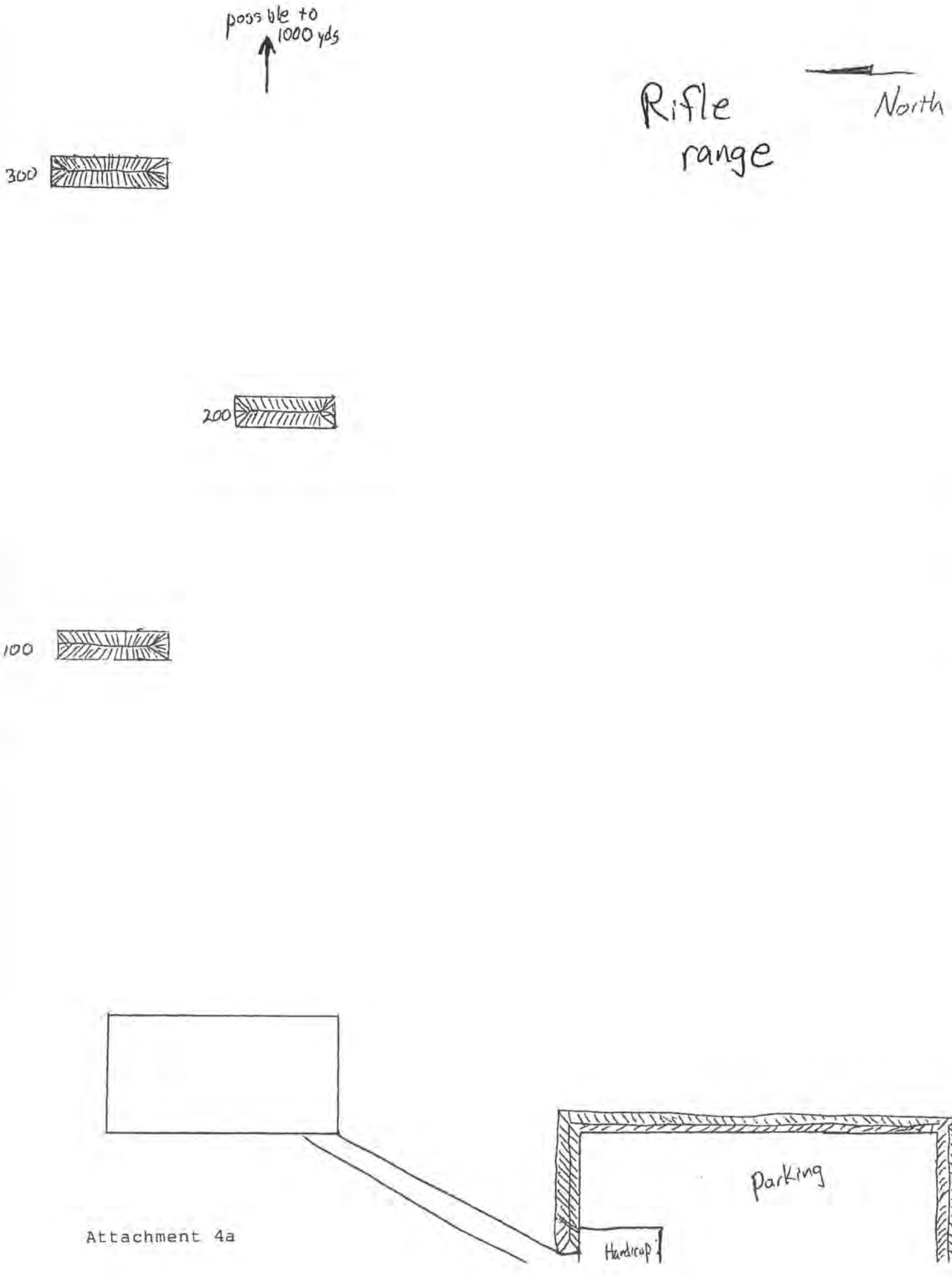
Nevada Natural Heritage Program (NNHP). 2013. Nevada Natural Heritage Program Database (NNHPD).

White Pine County (WPC). 2015. Shooting Range Grant Application to Nevada Department of Wildlife. 40 pgs.

White Pine County (WPC). 2009. Land Use Plan. 346 pgs. http://www.whitepinecounty.net/DocumentCenter/View/169

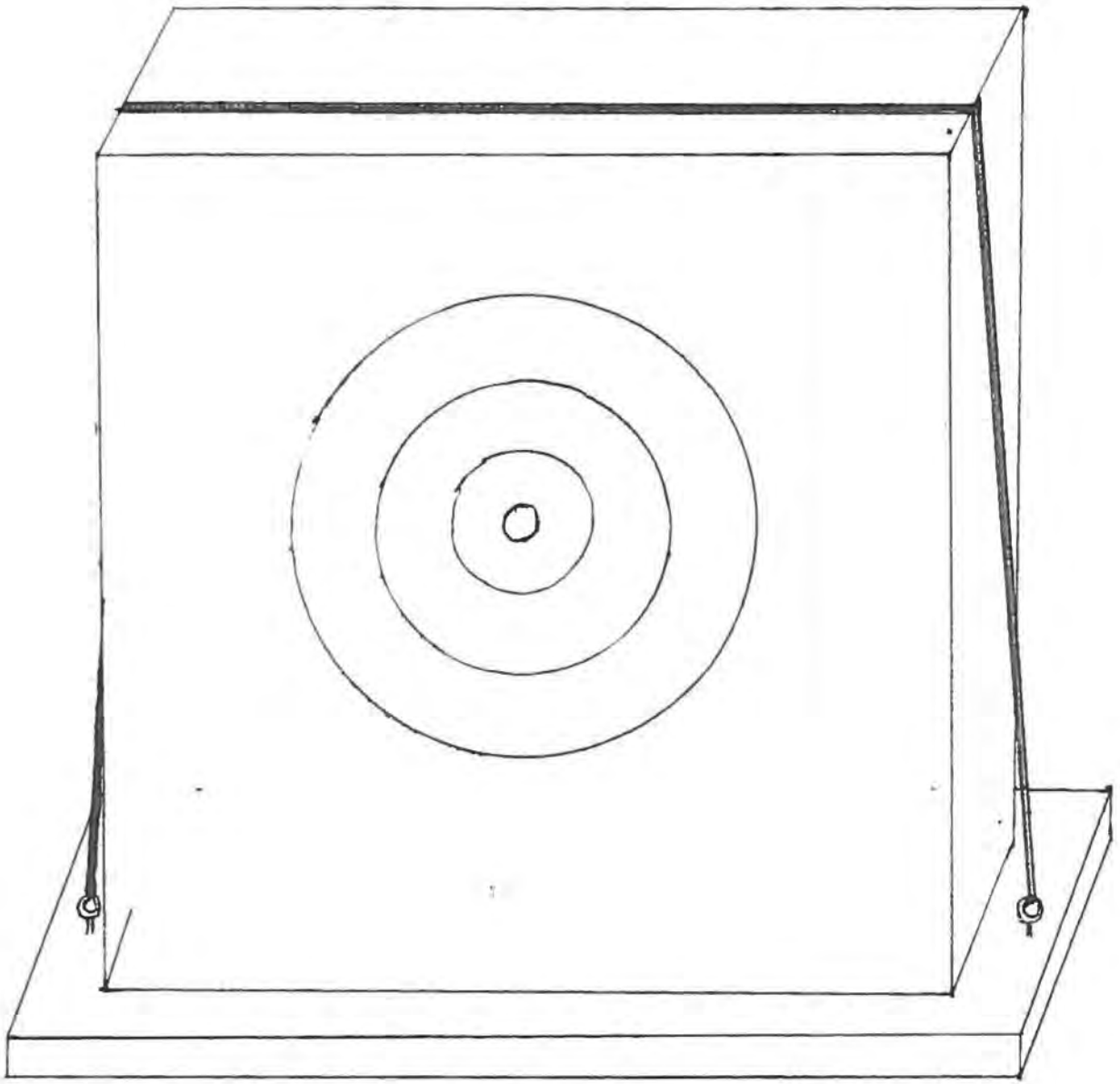
Appendix A

Map and diagrams of proposed features to be constructed.



Attachment 4a

Archery target (24 each)

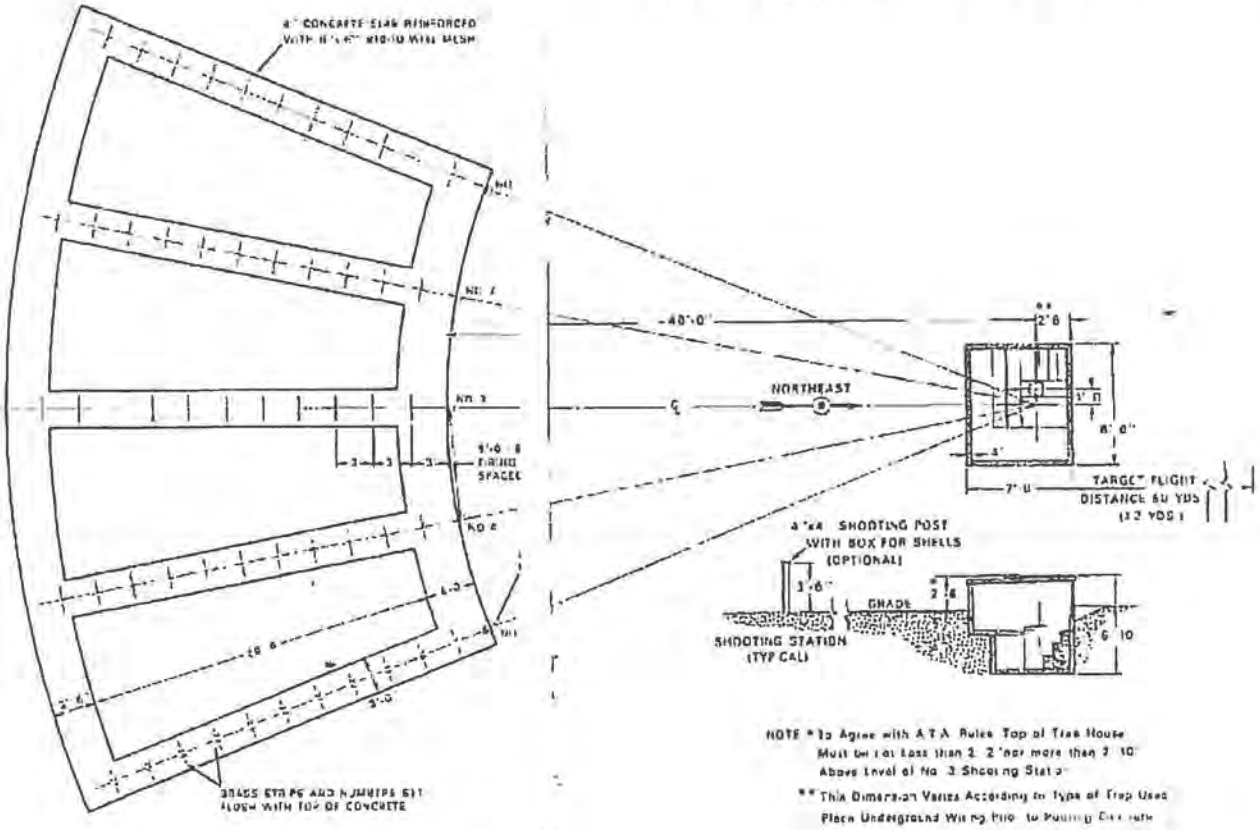


Attachment 4b

Pistol

Attachment 4c

A.T.A. DEFINITIVE TRAP FIELD

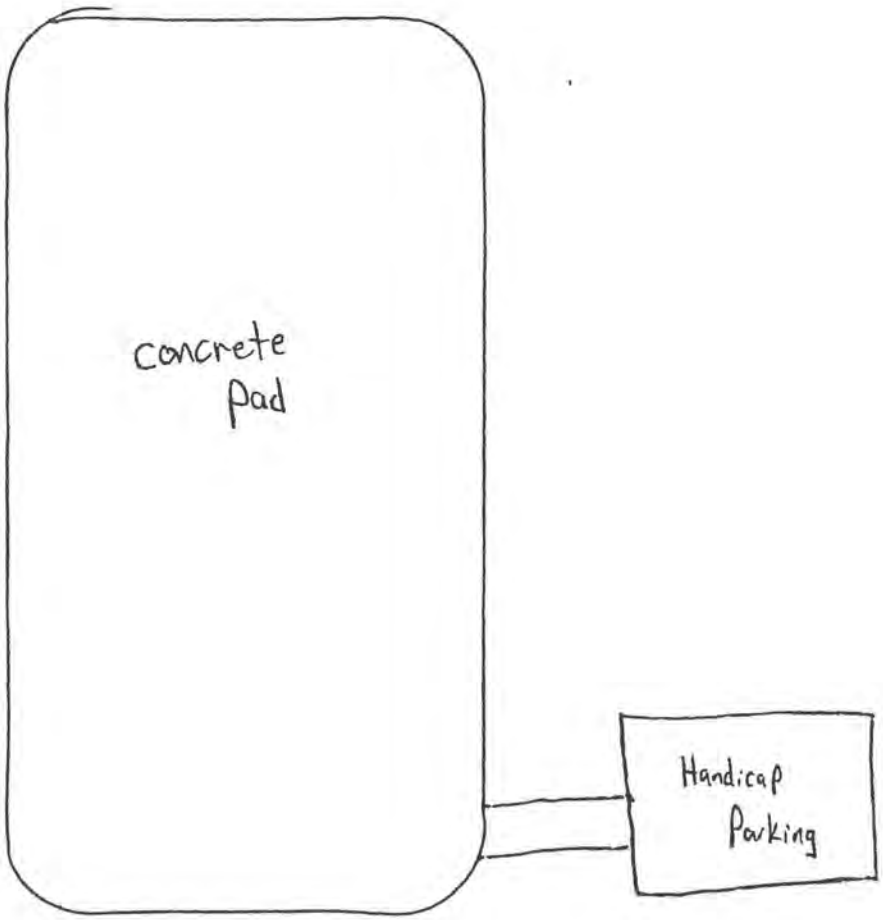


NOTE * To Agree with A.T.A. Rules Top of Tree House Must be not Less than 2' 2" nor more than 2' 10" Above Level of No. 3 Shooting Station

** This Dimension Varies According to Type of Trap Used Place Underground Wiring Prior to Pouring Concrete

2 trap courses

Trainig Area



Attachment 4e

Appendix B

Letters of support.

March 18, 2014

White Pine County

950 Campton Street

Ely, NV 89301

To Whom It May Concern:

White Pine County 4H Shooting Sports is in full support of all funding requests for shooting facilities in White Pine County. We look forward to helping in any way that we can. Any opportunity to enhance the shooting opportunities in White Pine County is something that we look forward to.

Sincerely,

Janet Netcher

White Pine 4H Shooting Sports Secretary

University of Nevada
Cooperative Extension

March 17, 2014

Elaine Blackham
950 Campton Street
Ely, NV 89301

Elaine

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of the proposal has been submitted to Nevada Department of Wildlife, Hunter Education Program by White Pine County to improve the White Pine County Shooting Range.

As users of the Shooting Range for the past 28 years with 4-H Shooting Sports, I can tell you these improvements are very much needed.

These improvements will allow for handicapped people to participate in this sport, and these improvements will allow our 4-H family participants and other County residents to continue to learn safe and responsible gun ownership. There are roughly twenty-two 4-H members that use the facility.

In conclusion, I fully support the efforts of the White Pine County as they seek external funding to support capital improvements to the White Pine County Shooting Range.

If you need further information; please feel free to contact me at petemangum98@yahoo.com 775-293-1260.

Sincerely,

Pete Mangum,
4-H Shooting Sports Volunteer

Sincerely,

Jaime Brunson
Community Based Instructor III
(4-H coordinator)
(775) 293-6597

White Pine County
995 Campton
Ely, NV 89301-0210
(775) 289-4459
Fax - (775) 289-1462
http://www.unce.unr.edu/Central/index.htm

Bristlecone Bowmen

To Whom it concerns:

The Bristlecone Bowmen are patiently waiting the opportunity to assist in the remodeling of the Mosier Shooting Range. We have been looking forward to this project for years. We will once again be able to hold archery tournaments at the local facility. We will have a great range set up for the public and look forward to a growing number of new participants. If you need to contact anyone, the presidency is listed below.

Once again we are very excited and can hardly wait to begin work on the project.

Scott Laity President 296-0499

Brian Bennett Vice President 293-1064

Martin Burdick Range Captain 293-5596

Jen Hollingsworth Sec/Treas. 293-1474

April 3, 2014

Elaine Blackham
Senior Management Assistant
W.P. County Community and Economic Development
957 Campton Street
Ely, NV 89301

Dear Ms. Blackham:

It is with great pleasure that the Friends of NRA, White Pine County Chapter support the White Pine County Shooting Range project. The Friends of NRA encourages projects such as these that will enhance not only the White Pine County Community facilities, but also allow for updated improvements to the White Pine County Shooting Range.

The Friends of NRA agree that the improvements are very much needed. The improvements will allow for handicapped people to participate in the shooting sports. It will also allow for White Pine County residents to continue to learn safe and responsible gun ownership.

The Friends of NRA fully support the efforts of White Pine County in the endeavors to improve all aspects of the White Pine County Shooting *Range.*

The Friends of NRA would like to thank you and White Pine County for your time in administering the grant funded activities that will enable use from all people who live and visit White Pine County.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Robert Winder

Robert Winder, President
Friends of NRA

ELY SHOSHONE TRIBE

16 SHOSHONE CIRCLE FAX (775) 289-3156 ELY, NEVADA 89301
(775) 289-3013

September 10, 2013

Elaine Blackham
Senior Management Assistant
White Pine County
Community and Economic Development
957 Campton Street
Ely, NV 89301
(775) 293-6594

Subject: White Pine County Shooting Range

Dear Elaine Blackham,

Regarding the White Pine County Shooting Range project your agency is undertaking, the area in question has no significant impact on tribal lands or the tribal community at this time. The Ely Shoshone Tribe encourages projects such as these that will enhance not only the White Pine County Community, but the Tribal community as well. Additionally, should anything of cultural significance be discovered while developing the White Pine County Shooting Range, the tribe would ask to be notified promptly. The Ely Shoshone Tribe would like to express their appreciation for having the opportunity to consult on this project and to further the ongoing relationship between the Ely Shoshone Tribe and White Pine County.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this proposal.

Sincerely,

Alvin S. Marques, Chairman

White Pine County Sheriff's Office

1785 Great Basin Blvd. ~ Ely, NV 89301

Phone (775) 289-8808
Fax (775) 289-1468

DAN WATTS
Sheriff

SCOTT HENRIOD
Captain

August 12, 2013

Honorable Board of County Commissioners
White Pine County Courthouse Annex
Ely, NV 89301

Honorable Commissioners,

The White Pine County Shooting Complex is a great asset for the Sheriff's Office. Our Concealed Weapons deputy utilizes this complex as well as the youth of White Pine County for various activities.

Once the Complex is upgraded, it will continue to be an asset to this department and all of White Pine County.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free on contact this office.

Sincerely,

Dan Watts, Sheriff
White Pine County

DW/gj

I am in support of the Bowmans range plans. I am the pres. of the Steptoe Valley Rodeiros cowboy action shooting group and we use the county range for our shooting.

Thomas J Love
AKA Cheyenne Kid
pres Steptoe Valley Rodeiros

Appendix C

September 28, 1992, Deed from BLM to WPC for Shooting Range

Form 1860-9
(January 1988)

The United States of America

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting: BOOK 243 PAGE 196

N-37750

WHEREAS

White Pine County

is entitled to a land patent pursuant to the Act of June 14, 1926, as amended (43 U.S.C. 869 - 869-4), for the following described land:

Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada

T. 16 N., R. 64 E.,
sec. 4, $S\frac{1}{2}S\frac{1}{2}SW\frac{1}{4}$;
sec. 5, $SE\frac{1}{4}SE\frac{1}{4}SE\frac{1}{4}$;
sec. 8, $E\frac{1}{2}NE\frac{1}{4}$, $E\frac{1}{2}W\frac{1}{2}NE\frac{1}{4}$, $E\frac{1}{2}SE\frac{1}{4}$, $NE\frac{1}{4}NW\frac{1}{4}SE\frac{1}{4}$;
sec. 9, $W\frac{1}{2}$.

containing 580 acres.

NOW KNOW YE, that there is, therefore, granted by the UNITED STATES, unto White Pine County the land described above; TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said land with all the rights, privileges, immunities and appurtenances of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said White Pine County, and its assigns, forever; and

EXCEPTING AND RESERVING TO THE UNITED STATES:

1. A right-of-way thereon for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States. Act of August 30, 1890 (43 U.S.C. 945).

2. All mineral deposits in the lands so patented, and to it, or persons authorized by it, the right to prospect for, mine and remove such deposits from the same under applicable law and regulations to be established by the Secretary of the Interior.

Patent Number 27-92-0055

N-37750

Provided that title shall revert to the United States upon a finding, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, that, without the approval of the Secretary of the Interior or his delegate, the patentee or its approved successor attempts to transfer title to or control over the lands to another, the lands have been devoted to a use other than that for which the lands were conveyed, the lands have not been used for the purpose for which the lands were conveyed for a 5-year period, or the patentee has failed to follow the approved development plan or management plan.

Provided further that the Secretary of the Interior may take action to revest title in the United States if the patentee directly or indirectly permits its agents, employees, contractors, or subcontractors (including without limitation lessees, sublessees, and permittees) to prohibit or restrict the use of any part of the patented lands or any of the facilities thereon by any person because of such person's race, creed, color, sex, or national origin.

PATENT NO. 27-92-0055

Form 1860-25
(May 1989)

BOOK 203 PAGE 198

N-37750

The grant of the herein described lands is subject to the following reservations, conditions, and limitations:

(1) The patentee or his (its) successor in interest shall comply with and shall not violate any of the terms or provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 241), and requirements of the regulations, as modified or amended, of the Secretary of the Interior issued pursuant thereto (43 CFR 17) for the period that the lands conveyed herein are used for the purpose for which the grant was made pursuant to the act cited above, or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits.

(2) If the patentee or his (its) successor in interest does not comply with the terms or provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the requirements imposed by the Department of the Interior issued pursuant to that title, during the period during which the property described herein is used for the purpose for which the grant was made pursuant to the act cited above, or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits, the Secretary of the Interior or his delegate may declare the terms of this grant terminated in whole or in part.

(3) The patentee, by acceptance of this patent, agrees for himself (itself) or his (its) successors in interest that a declaration of termination in whole or in part of this grant shall, at the option of the Secretary or his delegate, operate to revest in the United States full title to the lands involved in the declarration.

(4) The United States shall have the right to seek judicial enforcement of the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the terms and conditions of the regulations, as modified or amended, of the Secretary of the Interior issued pursuant to said Title VI, in the event of their violation by the patentee.

(5) The patentee or his (its) successor in interest will, upon request of the Secretary of the Interior or his delegate, post and maintain on the property conveyed by this document signs and posters bearing a legend concerning the applicability of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to the area or facility conveyed.

(6) The reservations, conditions, and limitations contained in paragraphs (1) through (5) shall constitute a covenant running with the land, binding on the patentee and his (its) successors in interest for the period for which the land described herein is used for the purpose for which this grant was made, or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits.

(7) The assurances and covenant required by sections (1)--(6) above shall not apply to ultimate beneficiaries under the program for which this grant is made. "Ultimate beneficiaries" are identified in 43 CFR 17.12(h).

280367
FEE -0- FILE
FILED FOR RECORD
AT THE REQUEST OF
White Pine County
'92 SEP 28 A10:25
RECORDED 203 196-198
WHITE PINE COUNTY RECORDER

(SEAL)

Patent Number 27-92-0055

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the undersigned authorized officer of the Bureau of Land Management, in accordance with the provisions of the Act of June 17, 1948 (62 Stat. 476), has, in the name of the United States, caused these letters to be made Patent, and the Seal of the Bureau to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand in Reno, Nevada
the EIGHTEENTH day of SEPTEMBER
in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and NINETY-TWO
and of the Independence of the United States the two hundred and SEVENTEENTH

By _____
Deputy State Director, Operations

Appendix D

Public Notice Comments

From: Kody Menghini
To: Justin Cutler
Cc: Alan Jenne; Chris Vasey; Shawn P. Espinosa; Moira Kolada
Subject: RE: White Pine County Range Enhancement Draft EA
Date: Monday, April 25, 2016 1:42:43 PM

Justin,

I may be able to add some local perspective on this. Last spring I provided wildlife revisions from the 1980's EA to NDOW that did not make it into the grant (not sure why, but not a big deal). In the comments I included pronghorn antelope as a big game species that is now present at the shooting range. Pronghorn were not included the draft EA. We have also learn a lot about sage grouse since the 1980's and there is a lek 2.2 miles to the south of the shooting range and the shooting range itself is classified as Core habitat for sage grouse. Sage grouse were not mentioned in the draft EA, that I could see. As far as fire goes, the Range Fire occurred in 2012 from exploding targets at the shooting range. The fire ended up burning several thousand acres. We lost sage grouse and mule deer habitat as a result of this fire. The burn area is dominated by cheatgrass now. The BLM has spent a lot of time and money to treat the cheatgrass, but has not had a lot of high success. The area could easily burn again. If you look at the shooting range on Google Earth you can see the burn scare within the shooting range, which now has an increase fuel load and can easily ignite from a spark. I would think that the chances of another fire starting at this shooting range is high and it would behoove us to take fire and fire prevention into consideration in the EA.

Take care,
Kody

From: Justin Cutler [mailto:justin_cutler@fws.gov]
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2016 1:14 PM
To: Shawn P. Espinosa
Cc: Alan Jenne; Kody Menghini; Chris Vasey
Subject: RE: White Pine County Range Enhancement Draft EA

This email works fine

Please educate me though….what does green-stripping have to do with mitigating fire?

From: Shawn P. Espinosa [mailto:sespinosa@ndow.org]
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2016 1:07 PM
To: Justin Cutler
Cc: Alan Jenne; Kody Menghini; Chris Vasey
Subject: RE: White Pine County Range Enhancement Draft EA

Hey Justin:

Due to the proximity of sage-grouse and other species of interest such as mule deer and elk (especially during winter) we would suggest that green-stripping around the periphery of the facility be a consideration to mitigate the potential for wildfire. Would you like these comments submitted formally via correspondence or how would you like to capture them?

Thanks,

Note new address change below:

Shawn Espinosa
Upland Game Staff Biologist
Nevada Department of Wildlife
6980 Sierra Center Parkway, Suite 120
Reno, NV 89511

Phone: (775) 688-1523
Fax: (775) 688-1987

E-mail: sespinosa@ndow.org

From: Justin Cutler [mailto:justin_cutler@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 8:39 AM
To: cbaughman@ndow.org; Shawn P. Espinosa
Subject: White Pine County Range Enhancement Draft EA

Hi Curt and Shawn

I previously corresponded with you on this project a few years ago.

Attached is a copy of our draft EA for White Pine County Shooting Range Enhancements grant to NDOW.

Please let me know if you have any comments.

Justin Cutler
Grants Management Specialist
Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
916-414-6457 [ofc]
916-768-2336 [cell]

From:	Brown, Concetta
To:	Justin Cutler
Cc:	alicia hankins
Subject:	Shooting Range Draft EA Comments
Date:	Wednesday, April 27, 2016 12:57:30 PM

Justin-

I am the Planning and Environmental Coordinator for the BLM Ely District-Schell Field Office. I am writing you to let you know I have reviewed the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the White Pine County Shooting Range Enhancement, as assigned to me by Jill Moore, our Field Manager. Jill agreed with her staff that the upgrading of the facilities is in compliance with the Recreation & Public Purposes Act Patent. Below are some recommended suggestions which could be made to the document for clarity and to make the presented information more current.

- The second paragraph in Chapter 4 states, "restrooms will increase safety and sanitation for the users." This is the first and last place restrooms are ever discussed. I suggest mentioning them in Chapter 1, paragraph 3 when everything else you plan on doing is described. Are these restrooms planned to be built at a later date, perhaps part of the building which may be constructed if funds can be found? If this is the case, that should be stated in Chapter 4, paragraph 3 as a secondary purpose.

- Table 1: Summary of Environmental Consequences by Alternative
  - **Biological-Vegetation/Habitat:** Under Affected Environment (AE) you cite information from the 1983 EA as to what vegetation community is out there. With the Range Fire of 2013 it is possible the community has shifted. I would suggest taking a look at the Existing Vegetation Type layer in LANDFIRE to get current information.
  - **Biological-Wildlife**: Greater Sage-Grouse is not mentioned in the AE. The shooting range is surrounded by Priority and General habitat. There is also an active lek within 1.5 miles. I would also suggest looking at more recent data pertaining to how many ferruginous hawk nesting sites are in the area. Our data shows there are 2 nesting sites within the range and 3 additional nesting sites within a mile of the range.
  - **Land Use and Planning**: The BLM's Ely District Approved Management Plan, as amended (2008) should be listed here as one of the plans the project is in conformance with.
  - **Utilities and Service Systems**: In the AE you state, "there are no known utilities or services to the project area." In the Summary of Actions by Alternatives table in Chapter 7.4 it is indicated that electric is present. Which one is correct?

Thank for sending us the document to review. We would really like to have a copy of the Final EA for our files when all is said and done.

Have a great day!

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