



**NATIONAL
CONSERVATION
LANDS**

Basin and Range

National Monument Resource Management Plan



Public Scoping Report

2017



**NATIONAL
CONSERVATION
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Cover Photo of the Basin and Range National Monument
by Bob Wick, BLM.

**Basin and Range National Monument
Resource Management Plan and
Environmental Impact Statement**

SCOPING REPORT

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

**Ely District Office
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Ely, Nevada 89301**

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
BARNM	Basin and Range National Monument
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act
GIS	Geographic Information System
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
OHV	Off-Highway Vehicle
RAC	Resource Advisory Council
RMP	Resource Management Plan

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This scoping report summarizes the public and agency input received during the scoping process for the Basin and Range National Monument (BARNM) Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Ely District Office in Ely, Nevada, is preparing the RMP and EIS in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (FLPMA), to serve as a roadmap to guide the management of public lands within the monument boundaries (Monument) for the next 20 to 30 years. The scoping report describes the Monument and purpose and need for the RMP; describes the scoping process; summarizes public and agency comments received during scoping; and provides a preliminary list of issues, concerns, and opportunities for analysis in the EIS.

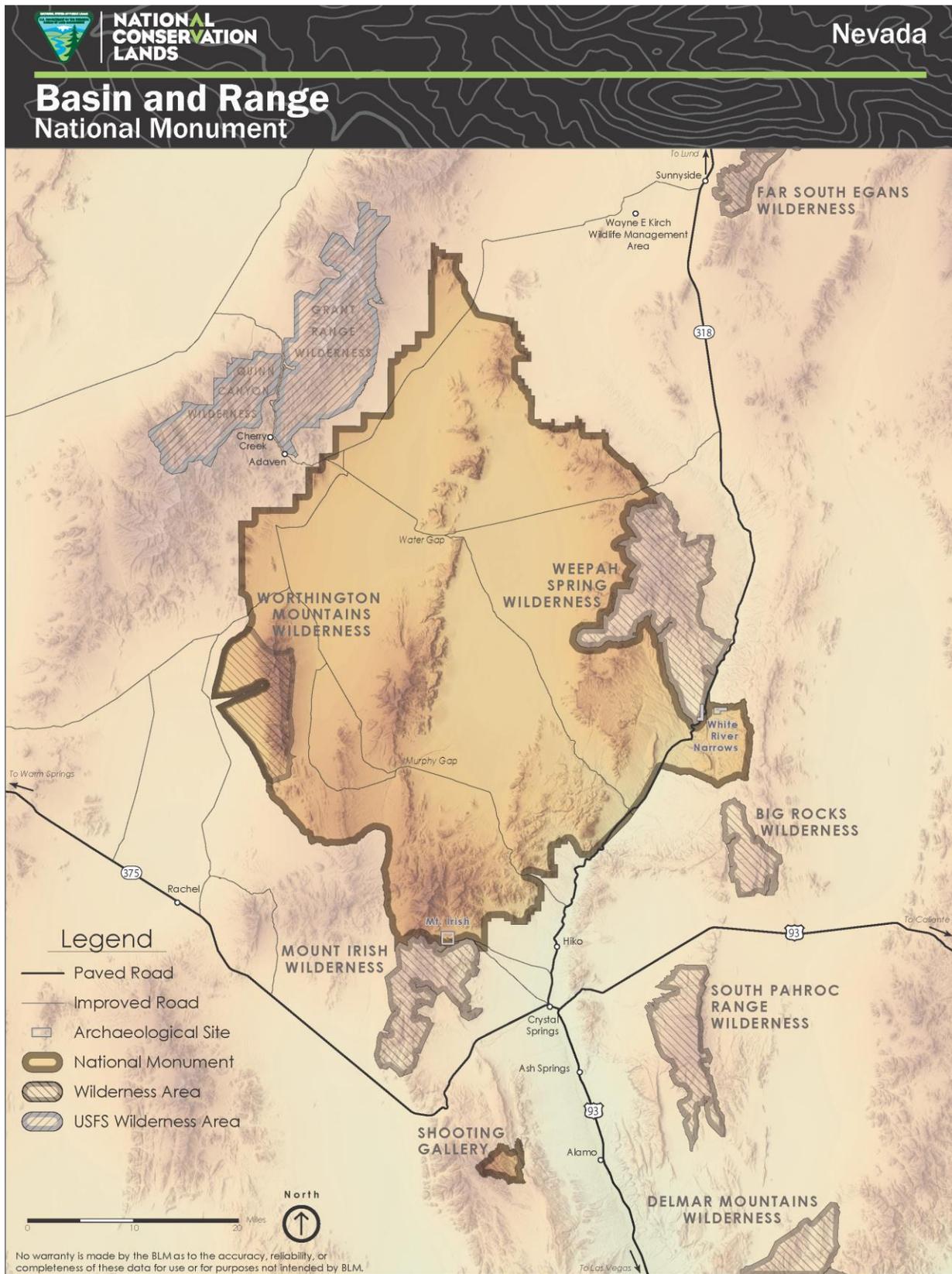
1.1 Background and Description of the Planning Area

On July 10, 2015, President Obama issued a presidential proclamation (Proclamation) establishing BARNM in southeastern Nevada under the authority of the Antiquities Act of 1906 (Appendix A). As the Proclamation indicates, the President established the Monument to “preserve its cultural, prehistoric, and historic legacy and maintain its diverse array of natural and scientific resources, ensuring that the prehistoric, historic and scientific values of this area remain for the benefit of all Americans.” The Proclamation further states: “For purposes of the care and management of the objects identified above, the Secretary, through BLM, shall, within 3 years of the date of this proclamation prepare and maintain a management plan for the monument and shall provide for maximum public involvement in the development of that plan including, but not limited to, consultation with state, tribal, and local governments.”

In accordance with the Proclamation and FLPMA, the BLM Ely District Office is establishing an RMP for the Monument to set the management direction for the public lands within the Monument. Public lands within the Monument are currently managed in accordance with the Ely RMP signed in 2008, as amended by the Greater Sage-Grouse Approved RMP Amendment signed in 2015. The new, stand-alone BARNM RMP will tier to and may incorporate by reference portions of these management plans. The BLM is preparing an EIS in conjunction with the RMP to disclose the potential impacts associated with the BLM’s proposed management alternatives for BARNM, as required under NEPA.

The Monument is located in Lincoln and Nye Counties, Nevada, and encompasses approximately 704,000 acres of BLM-administered land (Map 1). The Monument contains unique geological, cultural, and natural resources, including sites such as the White River narrows and Mount Irish Archaeological Districts, as well as the 30,594-acre Worthington Mountains Wilderness. As specified in the Proclamation, the BLM will manage these lands as a component of the National Landscape Conservation System (also known as National Conservation Lands) in a manner that protects and restores its objects and values. The designation does not affect grazing operations in the Monument, including use of motorized vehicles, construction and maintenance of water infrastructure, and construction of fences and other range improvements relating to grazing operations. Additionally, the designation does not affect U.S. military uses of the airspace and allows continued military access for emergency response and training activities. Approximately 4,400 acres (0.6% of the Monument) are private inholdings within the Monument; private lands other than those being considered for conservation easement will not be addressed in the RMP and EIS. All other land within the Monument is administered by the BLM.

Map 1. Basin and Range National Monument



1.2 Purpose and Need for the Resource Management Plan

The purpose and need for the RMP is still in draft form and likely will evolve prior to the publication of the Draft RMP and EIS.

The need for this action is established by FLPMA and the Proclamation (Appendix A). FLPMA requires the BLM to develop RMPs that provide for the concurrent multiple use and sustained yield of public lands. The Proclamation establishing BARNM specified that the BLM “shall within 3 years of the date of this proclamation prepare and maintain a management plan for the monument...”

The purpose of the RMP is to protect the objects of scientific and historic interest in the Monument. The Monument is composed of BLM-administered lands with cultural, natural, and scientific significance, which are to be protected for the benefit of all Americans. The RMP is to provide management direction that will preserve and protect the rich cultural tradition that is expressed in the archaeological, historic, and cultural sites and values that occur throughout the Monument. These resources include, but are not limited to, rock art, campsites, and artifacts. The RMP is to provide management direction that will preserve historic resources associated with early European and American settlement in the Basin and Range region, including miners, ranchers and a modern artist.

Furthermore, a purpose of the RMP is to provide management that will protect the wide array of natural resource objects, such as habitats encompassed by the Monument, which includes the transition between the Mojave Desert and the sagebrush steppe ecosystems of the Great Basin. The RMP will ensure protection of this large, ecologically intact landscape, which provides connectivity and migration corridors for a wide variety of animal species, including Greater Sage-Grouse at the northern portion of the Monument.

The RMP also will appropriately merge the land-use planning direction in the Proclamation with the management decisions already provided in the existing Ely District RMP. The RMP for BARNM will provide clarification on specific management needs not addressed in either guiding document.

1.3 Envisioning

Prior to scoping, the BLM engaged in a public envisioning process to establish a vision for the Monument and to identify priorities and broad goals and objectives for the RMP. The envisioning process was designed to provide the public an early opportunity to provide input on the direction of the planning process and share their vision for management of public lands in the Monument. The BLM developed an envisioning questionnaire which was shared with key stakeholders during in-person, small group meetings and was posted online for broader public participation. The questionnaire was divided into two parts: Introductory Questions and Preliminary Planning Topic Questions. The Introductory Questions were broad and high-level and sought to elicit information about how people felt about the Monument and why it was important to them. The Preliminary Planning Topic Questions asked for more focused input on which topics should be addressed in the RMP and how the BLM should manage specific resources and resource uses in the Monument. Appendix C includes a copy of the questionnaire and summary of responses.

2.0 SCOPING PROCESS

The purpose of the public scoping process is to identify issues and planning criteria that should be considered in the RMP and EIS and to initiate public participation in the planning process. The BLM follows the public involvement requirements according to the Council on Environmental Quality regulations set forth in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1501.7, which states, “there should be an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed during the planning process.” The scoping process is designed to encourage public participation and to solicit public input. During the scoping process, the BLM solicits comments from the public and relevant agencies, organizes and analyzes all of the comments received, and then distills the comments to identify the issues to be addressed during the planning process. The BLM, in collaboration with cooperating agencies (see Section 2.3.1), will consider the comments provided during scoping and refine the issues and planning criteria, formulate alternatives, and conduct impact analyses. Additional BLM guidance and direction for scoping and public involvement is provided in the BLM Land Use Planning Handbook (BLM Handbook H-1601-1) and the BLM NEPA Handbook (BLM Handbook H-1790-1). The BLM recently finalized a new planning rule (published in the Federal Register on December 12, 2016, pages 89580-89671), which updates the BLM’s land use planning process. Although the BARNM RMP and EIS is not required to be compliant with the new planning rule because it was initiated prior to the effective date of the rule (January 11, 2017), the BLM will strive to be as consistent as possible with the new planning regulations.

The formal scoping process began on June 1, 2016, with publication of the Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register* (Appendix B) and ended on July 21, 2016, 15 days after the last scoping meeting. Although the formal comment period has ended, the BLM encourages public involvement and will continue to review all comments received during the RMP process to ensure no key issues or concerns have been missed. All scoping comments received by the BLM have been included in the BARNM RMP and EIS Administrative Record and are available on the RMP project website.

2.1 Public Notification of Scoping

Notice of Intent

The Notice of Intent is the legal document notifying the public of the BLM’s intent to initiate the planning process and to prepare an EIS for a major federal action. The Notice of Intent for the BARNM RMP and EIS was published in the *Federal Register* on June 1, 2016 (Vol. 81, No. 105, page 35043), initiating the formal scoping process. The Notice of Intent provided information on the Monument and RMP planning process, described the purpose of the scoping process, and identified methods to provide comments. Appendix B contains a copy of the Notice of Intent.

News Release

The BLM issued three news releases advertising the BARNM RMP scoping process. The first news release was issued on June 1, 2016, and announced the start of the scoping process, included a brief description of the RMP planning process, and provided information about how to comment. The second news release was issued on June 6, 2016, and included the dates, times, and locations of five public scoping meetings as well as providing information about how to submit comments. A third news release issued on June 14, 2016 included the date, time, and location of the sixth scoping meeting added in Tonopah, Nevada. Appendix B contains copies of the news releases.

Website

The BLM posted information about scoping and the RMP process on two webpages:

- National Conservation Lands BARNM website: http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/prog/nlcs_new/Basin_and_Range_National_Monument.htm
- RMP project website: <http://bit.ly/29nU5BT>

Both websites link to one another and provide information about how the public can get involved in the planning process. The primary focus of the National Conservation Lands BARNM website is to provide visitor information about the Monument, such as safety messages and recreational opportunities, with some limited information about the RMP planning process. The RMP project website is a repository for all documents and updates about the RMP. The website includes information about the RMP planning process, BLM contact information, the RMP and EIS timeline, and how to get involved. All documents issued as part of the BARNM RMP planning process will be posted to the RMP project website.

2.2 Scoping Meetings

The BLM hosted six scoping meetings between June 20 and July 6, 2016 (Table 1). These scoping meetings gave agencies, organizations, the public, and other interested parties an opportunity to learn and ask questions about the BARNM RMP and to share issues and concerns with the BLM. The BLM used an open house meeting format to encourage broader participation, allow attendees to learn about the BARNM RMP at their own pace, and enable attendees to ask BLM representatives questions in an informal one-on-one setting.

BLM staff from the Ely District Office were available at the meetings to answer questions and provide further information on the RMP process and scoping. The BLM provided a variety of informational materials describing the BARNM RMP and EIS and the scoping process, including maps of the Monument (Appendix D), the RMP schedule, and suggestions on how to make substantive comments. Meeting attendees voluntarily filled out sign-in sheets at the scoping meetings to document attendance and to be added to the mailing list if desired.

A total of 89 individuals signed the public scoping meeting sign-in sheets. Table 1 provides the locations, dates, times, and number of attendees at each scoping meeting. Attendees asked questions and requested information regarding a variety of topics including recreation, off-highway vehicle (OHV) use and motorized events, livestock grazing, vegetation, wildlife, water rights, valid existing rights, access to the artwork *City*, travel and transportation management, and airspace.



Public scoping meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada on June 29, 2016

Table 1. Scoping Meeting Locations

Date and Time	Location	Number of Attendees ¹
Monday, June 20, 2016 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	David E. Norman Elementary School 1001 E. 11th St. Ely, Nevada	6
Tuesday, June 21, 2016 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Alamo Annex courtroom 121 Joshua Tree Street Alamo, Nevada	13
Thursday, June 23, 2016 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Caliente Elementary School 289 Lincoln St. Caliente, Nevada	6
Saturday, June 25, 2016 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Lincoln County High School 1111 Edwards St. Panaca, Nevada	3
Wednesday, June 29, 2016 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.	Centennial Hills Library 6711 N. Buffalo Dr. Las Vegas, Nevada	60
Wednesday, July 6, 2016 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Tonopah Convention Center ² 301 W Brougner Ave Tonopah, Nevada	1

¹ Based on the number of people who signed the public scoping meeting sign-in sheets. Not all attendees signed in at the meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada on June 29, 2016.

² The scoping meeting in Tonopah, Nevada on July 6, 2016 was not originally advertised in the BLM’s June 6, 2016 news release announcing the scoping meetings. The meeting was later added at the request of the Nye County Commission and announced in a June 14, 2016 news release.

2.3 Collaboration and Consultation

2.3.1 Cooperating Agencies

Cooperating agency status provides a formal framework for local, state, and federal agencies, and tribal governments to engage in active collaboration with a lead federal agency to implement the requirements of NEPA and per the BLM Land Use Planning Handbook. Upon request of the lead agency (the BLM), any other federal agency that has "jurisdiction by law" shall be a cooperating agency. Jurisdiction by law means the other agency has authority to approve, veto, or finance all or part of the proposal (40 CFR 1508.15). In addition, other agencies that have "special expertise" with respect to an environmental issue that will be addressed through the NEPA analysis also may participate as a cooperating agency. Special expertise means "statutory responsibility, agency mission, or related program experience" (40 CFR 1508.26).

The BLM will invite all eligible federal agencies, state and local governments, and federally recognized tribes to participate as cooperating agencies in the development of the BARNM RMP and EIS. Agencies already expressing interest in participating as cooperating agencies include: Nevada Department of Wildlife, State of Nevada, Lincoln County, White Pine County, Lincoln County Water District, and N-4 Grazing Board. The BLM will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with each cooperating agency,

clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of each agency for participation throughout the planning process (NEPA Handbook 1790-1).

The State of Nevada expressed early interest in participating as a cooperating agency in the development of the BARNM RMP and EIS. On June 16, 2016, the BLM Ely District and Nevada State Office held a State Agency Briefing in the Guinn Room of the Nevada State Capitol building in Carson City, Nevada. The heads of state agencies and other agency representatives were invited to the briefing. State agencies present at the meeting included Nevada Department of Transportation, Nevada Division of Minerals, Nevada State Parks, State Historic Preservation Officer, Conservation Department, State Division of Lands, Legislative Council Bureau, and the National Association of Counties. Discussion topics at the briefing included but were not limited to county involvement, travel and transportation planning, valid existing rights, wild horses, and recreation.

2.3.2 Resource Advisory Council

A resource advisory council (RAC) is a committee established by the Secretary of the Interior to provide advice or recommendations to BLM management (BLM Land Use Planning Handbook H-1601-1). A RAC is generally composed of 15 members of the public, representing different areas of expertise. As provided for by FLPMA, the U.S. Department of the Interior established the RAC program in 1995 as a forum for local citizens to provide advice and recommendations to the Department of the Interior on management of public lands.

Within Nevada, three RACs provide advice and recommendations to the BLM regarding management of public lands. The Monument is located within the geographical area of the Mojave-Southern Great Basin (MOSO) RAC. In 2016, the MOSO RAC formed a subcommittee for the BARNM RMP.

The subcommittee chair is Susan Agee. The subcommittee met on May 11, June 22, July 20, and August 17, 2016 at the Alamo Annex in Alamo, Nevada. Monument Manager Alicia Styles and Rangeland Management Specialist Daniel Condie participated in the subcommittee meetings to provide information and answer questions posed by the group. Scoping comment recommendations from the subcommittee were presented to the MOSO RAC on September 22, 2016 and are considered in this scoping report. The Ely District will continue to coordinate with the MOSO RAC and subcommittee during regular meetings, typically held three or four times per year.

2.3.3 Friends Groups

One citizen-based Friends Group, not affiliated with the BLM or other federal agency, has been formed to advocate for the Monument and partner with the BLM on stewardship projects. Friends of Basin and Range National Monument was founded with a stated purpose of “protecting, restoring and enjoying the Monument through partnerships with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and community organizations, service projects, and outings to the pristine basins and mountain ranges that frame them.” The BLM has participated in meetings with Friends of Basin and Range National Monument and is committed to working with the group and other citizen-based Friends Groups that further the BLM’s goal of responsible management of public land resources.

2.3.4 Collaboration and Consultation with Tribes

The BLM consults with Native American Tribes on a government-to-government basis in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Executive Order 13175, regulations at 36 CFR 800.2, and

other applicable laws, regulations, and policies. Consultation for the BARNM RMP will occur with tribes identified as having interests or traditional cultural properties within the Monument. The following tribes have been identified as having an interest in the Monument or have expressed a desire to consult with the BLM in the planning process:

- Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation
- Duckwater Shoshone Tribe of the Duckwater Reservation
- Ely Shoshone Tribe of Nevada
- Te-Moak Tribe of the Western Shoshone Indians of Nevada
- Elko Band Council
- South Fork Band Council
- Battle Mountain Band Council
- Wells Indian Colony Band Council
- Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
- Cedar Band of Paiutes
- Indian Peaks Band of Paiutes
- Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians of the Kaibab Reservation, Arizona
- Shivwits Band of Paiutes
- Moapa Band of Paiute Indians of the Moapa River Indian Reservation
- Las Vegas Paiutes Tribe of the Las Vegas Indian Colony
- Yomba Shoshone Tribe of the Yomba Indian Reservation
- Timbisha Shoshone Tribe

BLM managers, archaeologists, and Native American Coordinators arranged and attended several meetings to coordinate and consult with tribes with potential interest in the BARNM land use planning process (Table 2). At the meetings the BLM distributed copies of the map of the Monument, the Proclamation, the Envisioning Questionnaire, and contact information. Tribal representatives asked questions and provided input for the BLM to consider during the development of the RMP, including discussions on the location of the Monument in relation to tribal land and important tribal cultural sites, pinyon-pine nut harvesting, and requests for additional informational material, additional meetings, and a field trip of the Monument.

Table 2. Tribal Coordination Meetings

Date	Location	Tribes
Friday, April 1, 2016	Cedar City, Utah	Paiute Tribes of Utah including Cedar Band, Indian Peaks Band, Kanosh Band, Koosharem Band and Shivwits Band
Monday, April 25, 2016	Duckwater, Nevada	Duckwater Shoshone Tribe
Friday, May 6, 2016	Ibapah, Utah	Confederated Tribes of the Goshute
Wednesday, June 29, 2016	Moapa, Nevada	Moapa Band of Paiutes
Wednesday, June 29, 2016	Las Vegas, Nevada	Las Vegas Band of Paiutes
Wednesday, July 6, 2016	Bishop, California	Timbisha Shoshone Tribe
Thursday, July 21, 2016	Cedar City, Utah	Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah

The BLM will continue to consult with tribes throughout the RMP and EIS development process. In addition to government-to-government consultation, the BLM will invite interested tribes to participate as cooperating agencies (see Section 2.3.1). As cooperating agencies, tribes will be provided opportunities to comment on the Preliminary Draft RMP and EIS and provide input throughout the land use planning process. Tribal concerns identified during consultation and collaboration activities, including impacts on Indian trust assets and potential impacts on cultural resources, will be considered in the RMP and EIS.

3.0 ISSUE SUMMARY

3.1 Methods of Comment Collection and Analysis

This scoping report includes comments submitted during the June 1 to July 21, 2016, scoping period. With the exception of RAC recommendations, submissions received after July 21, 2016, are not incorporated into this report; however, these and any other comments received during the RMP process will be considered in RMP alternatives formulation and project planning. All scoping comments received by the BLM have been included in the BARNM RMP and EIS Administrative Record and are available on the RMP project website.

The BLM received 144 comment documents (i.e., entire letter or email from an individual or organization) during the scoping period, which were submitted via letters, email, or at the public scoping meetings. Of those comment documents, 25 comment documents received during the scoping period were form letters. Form letters are comment documents that contain the same or very nearly the same text and are submitted by multiple commenters, often on behalf of an organization advocating a certain position. The form letters submitted on the BARNM RMP addressed OHV use and competitive racing in the Monument. The BLM accounted for comments in the form letters only once, unless a commenter included unique text in which case only the additional unique comment was identified for consideration.

The BLM used a multi-step process to catalogue, organize, sort, and summarize comments submitted during scoping. The following steps describe the process used for processing comment documents, identifying and bracketing individual comments, and grouping comments into comment categories:

1. Receive and log data for each comment document.
2. Assign each comment document a unique identifier (referred to as a document number) for tracking purposes.
3. Electronically scan the comment document.
4. Review the comment documents and identify (bracket) each individual comment in the comment documents. Many comment documents included multiple individual comments.
5. Code each comment with a comment category based on the content of the comment. Comment categories are broad topics used to group comments expressing similar concerns.
6. Enter all individual comments into a sortable database.
7. Sort comments by comment category.
8. Develop issue statements to identify questions, concerns, and opportunities to address during preparation of the BARNM RMP and EIS (Section 3.3).

3.2 Summary of Public Comments

3.2.1 Comment Documents by Affiliation

Comment documents were received from individuals, interest groups, businesses, state agencies, county or city governments, elected officials, and a BLM RAC (Table 3).

Table 3. Number of Comment Documents Received by Affiliation

Commenter Affiliation	Number of Comment Documents
Business	22
Interest Groups	30
State Agency	2
County or City Government	7
Elected Official	1
Resource Advisory Council	1
Individual	81
Total	144

3.2.2 Comment Documents by Geographical Area

Comment documents were received from a range of geographies including 12 states, although the majority of commenters who provided their location were from Nevada (Table 4).

Table 4. Number of Comment Documents Submitted by Geographic Location

Location	Number of Comment Documents
Arizona	2
California	8
Colorado	3
Georgia	1
Idaho	2
Indiana	1
Kansas	1
Montana	1
Nevada	49
Oregon	2
South Dakota	1
Utah	2
Not Indicated	71
Total	144

3.2.3 Comments by Planning Issue Category

The BLM identified 587 individual scoping comments covering a broad range of topics. Of the 587 total comments, 502 comments are related to RMP planning issues that will be addressed in the RMP. The remaining 85 comments relate to the planning process or raise issues that will not be addressed in the RMP. Comments related to the planning process include comments on the BLM’s proposed Planning 2.0 process; planning criteria; scoping process; consistency with state, local, and tribal plans or policies; cooperating agency and stakeholder involvement; planning regulations; supplemental rules; general NEPA and FLPMA requirements; laws and regulations; monitoring; and literature references. While these topics will be considered during the development of the RMP, they do not relate to RMP planning issues which are resource driven. Comments submitted that will not be addressed in the RMP include comments that raise issues that would be handled through policy or administrative action or issues that are beyond the scope of the RMP. These comments are summarized in Section 3.4.

Table 5 summarizes the number of scoping comments by planning issue category. In many cases, comments the BLM received touched on multiple issue categories. In these cases, the comment was placed into the category where it seemed most appropriate. While these types of comments were not coded into multiple categories, the issue statements in Section 3.3 represent all of the comments relevant to that planning topic, regardless of the issue category where the comment was grouped. The BLM has developed the planning categories presented in Table 5 through review of all public scoping comments in addition to the planning issues identified in the BARNM RMP Preparation Plan as discussed in Section 3.3.

Table 5. Number of Comments by Planning Issue Category

Planning Issue Category	Number of Comments
Air Quality	3
Cave and Karst	7
Climate Change	20
Cultural Resources and Native American Concerns	28
Energy and Mineral Resources	8
Invasive Species	7
Lands and Realty	15
Livestock Grazing and Range Management	55
Noise	6
Recreation	122
Social and Economic	22
Special Management Areas	46
Travel and Transportation Management	40
Vegetation	27
Visitor Services, Health and Safety	29
Visual Resources	13
Water	8
Wild Horses	8

Table 5. Number of Comments by Planning Issue Category

Planning Issue Category	Number of Comments
Wildland Fire	6
Wildlife and Fish, including Special Status Species	32
Total Comments Identified	502

3.3 Issues Identified During Scoping

Planning issues are generally resource management problems, challenges, and opportunities that the BLM needs to address through the planning effort in order to ensure that the BLM is fulfilling its overarching management responsibilities. Issues may be identified by local, state, or national needs or may reflect conditions specific to the Monument. Issue identification is an ongoing process. Identified issues may change throughout the planning process as new concerns are identified and others are resolved.

The planning issues for the BARNM RMP are bounded by the Proclamation as well as other relevant federal laws and regulations. Several issues that commenters raised will not be addressed in the RMP because they are addressed by the Proclamation and are not within the BLM's authority. A copy of the Proclamation is provided in Appendix A, and a description of some of the key provisions of the Proclamation that define the BLM's legal responsibility with respect to the management of the Monument are described in Section 3.4.

Based on the Proclamation, preliminary issues were identified in the Preparation Plan for the RMP (January 2016). These early issues were identified by the BLM and other agencies at meetings, and/or were brought up by individuals and groups prior to scoping. These issues in addition to those identified through public scoping comments received by the BLM informed the development of the planning issues presented in this section. The BLM also developed two overarching planning approaches, which in concert with the planning issues, will drive the formulation of plan alternatives that the BLM will explore through the planning process. These planning approaches include:

1. *What decisions are necessary to protect the historical and cultural significance of these lands?* Collectively, this includes objects identified in the Proclamation, such as rock art, artifacts (worked bone, shell beads, projectile points), mining remains, and structures, caves, and art. The Proclamation also encapsulates the cultural traditions associated with the objects, including the Paleo-Indians from 13,000 years ago to the more recent miners, ranchers, and a modern artist, and their relationship to the land. The existing Ely District RMP identifies cultural resources, assesses their values, and initiates development of management strategies to meet the objectives for these resources. A Class I Inventory for the Monument is currently underway to augment this information.
2. *What decisions are necessary to protect and/or restore the unique and varied natural and scientific resources of these lands?* Collectively, this includes objects identified in the Proclamation, such as geologic resources (geology of the Basin and Range, caves, natural arches, cliffs/ridges), ecological resources (sagebrush communities, mixed desert scrublands), and the diverse wildlife occurring at BARNM, including numerous species of bats, Greater Sage-Grouse, and other sensitive species.

Based on scoping comments, the BLM developed the following planning issue statements, generally in the form of questions, which summarize the general issues and concerns identified during scoping. Issue statements are organized by planning issue category, and each category may have one or multiple issue statements based on the broad concerns raised by commenters. Beneath the main issue statements, additional questions provide detail about the types of issues raised in the scoping comments. Adjustments to the planning issues will continue to be made as needed during the planning process as the BLM receives additional input from the public and cooperating agencies.

3.3.1 Air Quality

- **How will the BLM manage activities occurring in the Monument to ensure they do not contribute to air quality-related impacts on human health or resource values?**
 - How will the BLM limit fugitive dust impacts associated with OHV racing?
 - What management activities should the BLM employ to ensure good air quality?

3.3.2 Cave and Karst

- **How will the BLM manage cave and karst resources that both protects the resources and provides recreational and scientific research opportunities?**
 - How will the BLM manage access to caves, and are there certain caves that warrant special management to protect them?
 - What recreational activities (e.g., climbing, hiking), interpretation, and research opportunities will be allowed in and around the caves in the Monument?

3.3.3 Climate Change

- **How will the BLM incorporate the effects of climate change into the management of the activities and land in the Monument?**
 - What management actions should the RMP include to address the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of climate change, to establish an adequate baseline to measure the effects, and to mitigate the effects?

3.3.4 Cultural Resources and Native American Concerns

- **How will the BLM manage and maintain the cultural and historic values of the Monument in a manner consistent with the Proclamation?**
 - How can traditional ranching and mining culture of the region be incorporated into the management of the Monument?
 - What areas need additional inventory and evaluation for archaeological, cultural, and historical resources and what type of management actions are needed to protect these resources associated with visitor use and other resource uses?
 - How should the RMP address the art installation *City*, which is located on a private inholding in the Monument, from a cultural heritage perspective? Is there a level of service and interpretation that should be provided on public land or developed using public resources that would facilitate visitation of *City*?

- How will the Monument's cultural and historical resources be presented to the public while not diminishing the integrity and experience of visiting the location, or have the setting be compromised by developed recreation, noise, and excess visitation?
- **What management actions are needed to ensure the continued use and access of sacred sites or locations of traditional cultural properties by present and future Native American generations?**

3.3.5 Energy and Mineral Resources

- **How will the BLM manage valid existing rights for energy and mineral resource development in the Monument?**
 - How will valid and existing rights for oil and gas and other mineral resources be addressed in the RMP? What types of decisions can the BLM make regarding valid existing mineral rights that are responsive to the conservation focus of the Monument while respecting legal rights of mineral lease and claim holders?
 - What management is needed for future development of valid existing mineral and energy rights to protect natural, biological, and cultural resources?

3.3.6 Invasive Species

- **What treatments and management actions are appropriate to control and prevent the spread of noxious weeds and invasive species?**
 - How will the BLM incorporate comprehensive weed and invasive species management planning into the RMP and what measures should be included to prevent, control, and remove weeds and invasive species?

3.3.7 Lands and Realty

- **What types of right-of-way authorizations may be allowed in the Monument and under what conditions?**
 - Should the RMP allow rights-of-way for water development projects, such as water pipelines, and renewable energy infrastructure, such as small-scale solar generation and associated power lines?
- **What criteria should be applied when considering acquisition of non-federal lands to be added to the Monument?**
- **How will the BLM manage access to private inholdings, including the art installation *City*, and ensure that private property rights are respected?**

3.3.8 Livestock Grazing

- **How will livestock grazing be managed and improvements maintained or constructed throughout the Monument in order to be sensitive to the needs of the livestock/agriculture industry, result in as little impact as possible to the Monument's resources, and be in compliance with grazing regulations and standards?**
 - Are there certain areas where livestock grazing is not compatible with resources in the Monument or areas where stocking levels or forage (animal unit months) should be reduced or authorized at only certain times of year? How will the BLM manage the renewal of grazing authorizations in the Monument after they expire?
 - How will the BLM manage lands toward meeting rangeland health standards using livestock grazing and range improvements as a tool?
 - How will the BLM address conflicts between livestock grazing and other resources and uses and associated impacts, including Monument objects, potential alteration of natural vegetation communities, weeds and invasive species management, conflicts with wildlife including Greater Sage-Grouse, recreation/grazing conflicts, riparian area management, climate change and desertification effects on rangeland, and socioeconomic impacts on permittees and nearby communities?

3.3.9 Noise

- **How should the BLM manage activities occurring on public land to protect areas for natural soundscape and quiet use?**
 - What criteria and standards should the BLM use to manage noise levels in consideration of wildlife resources and visitor experience?
 - Are there certain areas that should be prioritized to protect the natural soundscape and visitor experience?

3.3.10 Recreation

- **How will recreation opportunities be managed to allow for appropriate public use while maintaining resource values throughout the Monument?**
 - How will the BLM resolve conflict between increasing recreation demand, conflicts between recreation uses, and other resource values?
 - Are there certain areas in the Monument the BLM should manage with an emphasis on recreation through a recreation management area designation (Special Recreation Management Area or Extensive Recreation Management Area), and what type of management prescriptions should be applied to these areas?
 - How will the BLM manage the diversity of non-motorized and mechanized recreation uses that occur in the Monument, including hiking, camping, rock climbing, equestrian use, rock collecting, wildlife viewing, insect collection, hunting, fishing, and other activities? What types of developed recreational facilities and other services should be provided to support these uses?
 - How should the BLM administer existing Special Recreation Permits and under what conditions should new permits be authorized?

- **What type of management is needed to allow for sustainable use of OHV travel while maintaining the integrity of other resources in the Monument?**
 - How will the BLM identify and manage the appropriate use of roads and trails for motorized and mechanized travel?
 - What types of developed recreational facilities, signage, enforcement, and other services should be instituted to support OHV use in the Monument and encourage responsible stewardship of the land?
 - Under what conditions should the BLM authorize competitive racing events in the Monument?

3.3.11 Social and Economic

- **How will the BLM address the social and economic impacts of the decisions made regarding management of the Monument?**
 - How will the BLM incorporate socioeconomic considerations into the management of public land and resources in the Monument?
 - How will the RMP address the shift in the historical uses of public lands in the Monument from support of mining, oil and gas, grazing, and other resource uses to a more conservation and recreation-based emphasis and the impacts this will have on the social conditions and economy of the region?
 - How will the BLM evaluate and model the socioeconomic costs and benefits of resources and resource uses in the Monument, such as the nonmarket value of unimpaired wilderness and economic benefit of OHV racing, and incorporate these considerations into the management of the Monument?

3.3.12 Special Management Areas

- **What areas contain sensitive resources requiring special management and what, if any, special designations or other management prescriptions are appropriate to protect them?**
 - Lands with Wilderness Characteristics: Are there areas in the Monument that the BLM should manage to protect wilderness characteristics? What management should be applied to Lands with Wilderness Characteristics to protect these characteristics?
 - Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs): Should the BLM continue to manage the two existing ACECs, Shooting Gallery and Mount Irish, with special protections? Are there additional areas that contain sensitive resources that should be designated as ACECs?
 - Wilderness: How will the RMP address management of the Worthington Mountains Wilderness and are additional management prescriptions warranted?

3.3.13 Travel and Transportation Management

- **How will transportation and access be managed and maintained in the Monument?**
 - What areas will the public have access to within the Monument and which type of transportation options will be provided (paved road, gravel road, trails)?
 - How will the RMP address and manage the types of activities and vehicles allowed on trails and roads while maintaining the integrity of the landscape?
 - How will the RMP consider and address the impact of increased recreation, tourism, and traffic on roads and trails and what type of maintenance will be required?

3.3.14 Vegetation

- **How will the BLM conduct vegetation treatments and manage activities on public lands to protect, restore, and improve wildlife and sensitive plant habitat?**
 - How should the BLM go about identifying and managing for the appropriate mix of native vegetation types, structure, patch size, and composition across the Monument landscape? What type of data, such as BLM Rapid Ecoregional Assessments, and monitoring should the BLM rely on to accomplish this?
 - How will the BLM minimize impacts from resource uses on vegetation, including special status plant species?
 - What types of treatments are appropriate to improve habitat conditions and ecosystem health?
 - How will the BLM manage forest and woodland resources, including timber cutting?
 - How will the BLM protect and restore riparian and wetland areas?

3.3.15 Visitor Services, Health and Safety

- **What types of facilities and levels of service should be provided in the Monument to enhance visitor experience and maintain compatibility with Monument goals?**
 - How will the BLM manage conflicts between increased visitor use and resources and uses in the Monument?
 - What additional visitor facilities and services should the BLM develop and maintain in the Monument, such as trails, boundary markers, visitor service centers, restrooms, interpretive areas, signage, campgrounds, and public drinking water?
- **How will the BLM manage public land resources and visitor services to protect public health and safety in the Monument?**
 - Are there certain areas that pose elevated health and safety risk to the public that should be managed to mitigate the risk, such as abandoned mine lands?
 - How should the BLM incorporate emergency response planning in the RMP? What additional steps should the BLM, in concert with other stakeholders, take to improve safety, such as comprehensive cell phone coverage, more frequent BLM law enforcement patrols, and visitor registration?

3.3.16 Visual Resources

- **How will the BLM identify and manage visual resources in the Monument to protect existing viewsapes and aesthetic values?**
 - Should the BLM reclassify the existing Visual Resource Management classes to provide increased protections for visual resources based on a new inventory? Are there certain areas that should be prioritized to protect viewsapes and scenic vistas?
 - How will the BLM manage sources of light pollution and minimize impacts on dark night skies and nighttime vistas?

3.3.17 Water

- **How will the BLM manage public land and resources to ensure that surface and groundwater resources are of sufficient quality and quantity for public, wildlife, and other uses?**
 - What are the potential threats to water quality in the Monument and how should they be mitigated?
 - How will the RMP incorporate background water quality data, effective monitoring, and appropriate measures to limit water quality and quantity impacts?
 - How will the BLM balance competing demands for limited water resources between wildlife, livestock, human consumption, and other water uses?
- **Under what conditions should the BLM approve water resource development for beneficial use in the Monument, such as to enhance visitor experience and for livestock watering ponds?**

3.3.18 Wild Horses and Burros

- **Should the BLM continue to manage wild horses in the Monument and if so, what management actions should the RMP include to provide for the needs of wild horses, address conflicts with other resource uses, and ensure that wild horse herds are maintained at the appropriate management level?**
 - Should wild horses be managed in accordance with the BLM Ely RMP, or should separate management be identified for the Monument?
 - Are there other areas in the Monument, besides the Seaman Herd Management Area, that are appropriate for wild horses?
 - Should wild horses be removed entirely from the Monument or should the appropriate management level be lowered to set a management target for a reduced number of wild horses?

3.3.19 Wildland Fire

- **How will the BLM manage fire and fuels management in the Monument to protect public safety and property and for resource benefit?**

- How will the BLM incorporate prescribed and unplanned wildland fire in its overall approach of managing vegetation and wildlife habitat?
- How should the BLM manage post-fire rehabilitation? Are there certain resource uses that should be restricted or encouraged following a fire?

3.3.20 Wildlife and Fish, including Special Status Species

- **What management actions are needed to protect, improve, or restore terrestrial and aquatic habitats for fish, wildlife, and special status species?**
 - How should the BLM manage wildlife and fish habitat to reduce conflicts with resource uses including livestock grazing, recreation, and increased visitation in the Monument?
 - What type of proactive management should the BLM engage in to restore and improve wildlife habitat?
 - What areas, including wildlife corridors, should be prioritized for special management prescriptions?
 - How should habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse, migratory birds, and other special status species be managed in the Monument?

3.4 Issues that Will Not Be Addressed

The BLM received a number of comments that will not be addressed in the RMP because they address issues that are beyond the scope of the BARNM RMP or that would be handled through policy or administrative action. Provided below is a summary of some of the major issue themes that fall into these categories along with an explanation of why they will not be addressed.

Private Property Rights

- *The BLM received comments expressing concern over the potential infringement of private property rights in the Monument. Decisions in the BARNM RMP apply only to public land and will be consistent with current law, regulations, and policy. The BLM will work with private landholders who voluntarily wish to pursue a conservation easement to identify an appropriate management strategy that is consistent with the surrounding public land.*

Valid Existing Rights

- *Some commenters asked how valid existing rights would be maintained under the new RMP. The Proclamation states the following in regards to valid existing rights: “The establishment of the monument is subject to valid existing rights.” All authorizations approved by the BLM prior to the designation of the Monument are valid and cannot be revoked or limited, provided they are in compliance with federal law.*

Water Rights

- *Several commenters requested the RMP manage water in the BARNM RMP in accordance with valid existing rights. The Proclamation states the following in regards to water rights: “This proclamation does not alter or affect the valid existing water rights of any party, including the United States. This proclamation does not reserve water as a matter of Federal law.” The*

RMP will not address existing water rights as the BLM has no jurisdiction to alter or affect water rights.

Rights-of-Way

- *The BLM received comments inquiring about the types of rights-of-way authorizations that would be permitted in the Monument.* The Proclamation states the following in regards to right-of-way authorizations: “Except as necessary for the care and management of the objects identified above or for the purpose of permitted livestock grazing, no new rights-of-way for electric transmission or transportation shall be authorized within the monument. Other rights-of-way may be authorized only if consistent with the care and management of the objects identified above.” The RMP will not address electric transmission or transportation rights-of-way but will address the authorization and management of other rights-of-way.

Land Disposal and Mineral and Energy Resources

- *The BLM received comments regarding disposal of certain parcels of land in the Monument.* The Proclamation states the following in regards to disposal: “All Federal lands and interests in lands within the boundaries of the monument are hereby appropriated and withdrawn from all forms of entry, location, selection, sale, or other disposition under the public land laws, from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and from disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing, other than by exchange that furthers the protective purposes of the monument.” Therefore, the BLM is prohibited under the Proclamation from disposing of public land in the Monument.
- *The BLM received comments suggesting that land within the Monument remain open to hardrock mineral and oil and gas exploration and development.* While the RMP will address mineral development activity authorized under valid existing mining claims and fluid mineral leases, the Proclamation has withdrawn public lands in the Monument from further locatable mineral entry and mineral leasing.

Livestock Grazing

- *Commenters suggested the BLM develop additional standards for managing livestock grazing in the Monument.* The Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management apply to all BLM-administered lands in Nevada, including lands within the Monument. The Proclamation affirms that “Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to affect authorizations for livestock grazing, or administration thereof, on Federal lands within the monument. Livestock grazing within the monument shall continue to be governed by laws and regulations other than this proclamation.” Therefore standards for managing livestock grazing in the Monument will be governed by existing regulations.
- *Commenters suggested that certain restoration plans and remedial action be required if livestock grazing is found to be a contributing factor in not meeting a rangeland health standard.* Circumstances of not meeting Standards for Rangeland Health, such as not meeting Standard 5 associated with wildlife habitat, would be addressed through existing regulations and practices. The BLM would prepare implementation-level plans specifically directed at achieving the standards which would normally include monitoring as well as necessary adjustments to address the issue.

Travel and Transportation Management

- *The BLM received comments requesting travel management planning be conducted as part of this RMP.* Travel management planning is considered an implementation-level decision and will be conducted after the RMP planning process has concluded.
- *The BLM received comments requesting new roads be developed and off-road travel be authorized in the Monument.* The Proclamation states: “Except for emergency or authorized administrative purposes, motorized vehicle use in the monument shall be permitted only on roads existing as of the date of this proclamation. Non-motorized mechanized vehicle use shall be permitted only on roads and trails designated for their use consistent with the care and management of the objects identified above. The Secretary shall prepare a transportation plan that designates the roads and trails where motorized or non-motorized mechanized vehicle use will be permitted.” Therefore, no new roads may be developed in the Monument and off-road travel is prohibited.

Plan Level vs Implementation Level Decisions

- *The BLM received comments requesting that it undertake site-specific projects or decisions that are appropriately made during the implementation of the plan rather than in the plan itself.* Decisions in RMPs are foundational, providing overarching guidance for future site-specific and resource-specific implementation decisions. Implementation decisions, which take place after the completion of the RMP, generally constitute the BLM’s final approval allowing on-the-ground actions to proceed. These types of decisions will require additional appropriate site-specific planning, which will provide additional opportunities for public input. Examples of this include authorizations for specific livestock grazing range improvements and development of interpretive signage.

3.5 Anticipated Decisions to be Made

This scoping report does not make any decisions, nor does it change the current management direction set forth in the existing RMP. It merely summarizes those issues identified during the scoping period for the RMP. Issues identified in the scoping report, as well as subsequently identified issues, will be used by the BLM to help formulate a reasonable range of alternatives during the next phase (i.e., alternative formulation) of the RMP process. Each identified alternative will represent a complete and reasonable plan for managing BLM-administered lands in the Monument, which will be developed using a landscape-level approach. The BLM’s evaluation of identified alternatives will be documented in an EIS prepared as part of the RMP process. The BLM will document its decision selecting an RMP for the Monument in a Record of Decision.

The BARNM RMP will be comprehensive in nature and will set forth how the BLM will manage public lands in the Monument in accordance with the Proclamation, FLPMA, and other applicable laws and regulations. The RMP will also tier to or incorporate by reference the land-use decisions in the existing 2008 Ely RMP, as amended by the 2015 Greater Sage-Grouse Approved RMP Amendment. The RMP for BARNM will provide clarification on specific management needs not addressed in either guiding document.

Future decisions regarding management of the Monument will occur at two levels: the RMP (or land use planning) level and the implementation level. In general, only RMP-level decisions will be made as part of this RMP process. RMP-level decisions are made on a broad scale and identify management direction

and guide future actions within the Monument. An example of an RMP-level decision is the designation of an ACEC. Implementation-level decisions, often characterized as project level or activity level decisions, represent the BLM's final approval of on-the-ground actions. These decisions require a more detailed, site-specific analysis than what will be provided in the EIS prepared for the RMP. An example of an implementation-level decision is the development and management of visitor center. The RMP-level decisions that will be made in the BARNM RMP will establish desired outcomes for the management of public land resources along with the management prescriptions needed to achieve these outcomes. These management prescriptions are expressed as management actions and allowable uses (i.e., lands that are open or available for certain uses [including any applicable restrictions] and lands that are closed to certain uses).

3.6 Valid Existing Management to be Carried Forward

The BARNM RMP will address and integrate, to the degree possible, all BLM management plans related to management of the lands in the Monument including, but not limited to, the 2008 Ely RMP, as amended by the 2015 Greater Sage-Grouse Approved RMP Amendment, the 2011 Worthington Mountains Wilderness and Weepah Spring Wilderness Management Plan, fire management plans, livestock grazing allotment management plans and watershed plans, wildlife habitat management plans, cultural resource management plans, and recreation management plans.

The BLM will review existing resources and resource use conditions and the existing management situation to identify which existing decisions should be carried forward and where there is an opportunity to modify existing direction or develop new management guidance. This review is documented in the BLM's Analysis of Management Situation for the BARNM RMP.

3.7 Special Designations, Nominations, Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

The BLM Land Use Planning Handbook (H-1601-1; BLM 2005b) requires that application of the following administrative decisions be considered when developing an RMP: ACECs, National Historic Trails, scenic or back country byways, Special Recreation Management Areas, wild and scenic rivers, and Wilderness Study Areas.

Special Designations

The special designations section of the RMP will include a discussion of currently designated areas within the Monument including the Worthington Mountains Wilderness, the Shooting Gallery ACEC, and the Mount Irish ACEC. Through this RMP process the BLM will determine if special management is still warranted for the two ACECs and whether special management considerations are needed for the Worthington Mountains Wilderness.

Nominations

The RMP will also determine if new special management areas should be designated within the Monument. Based on scoping comments, the BLM will consider the suggestions to designate ACECs for the protection of specific wildlife habitat values and connectivity corridors. No new ACEC nominations were received during the scoping period.

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Although Lands with Wilderness Characteristics are not an administrative designation, the BLM will also review the Citizen Inventory for Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (Citizen Inventory) compiled by

The Wilderness Society in their scoping comments. The Wilderness Society's Citizen Inventory provided summaries of seven units which met the "Minimum Standards for Review of New Information" in accordance with BLM Manual 6310, Conducting Wilderness Characteristics Inventory on BLM Lands. During the RMP process, the BLM will determine if the seven units identified as qualifying units warrant special management to preserve their wilderness characteristics. The units include:

- Gate Peak
- Mist Peak
- Garden Island
- Cherry Peak
- Golden Island
- Fossil Peak
- Seaman Range

The Wilderness Society Citizen Inventory also identified an additional eight units with potential wilderness characteristics that are located within or adjacent to the Monument. Preliminary maps of these units were included in the Wilderness Society's scoping comment letter. The Wilderness Society also indicated in its scoping comment letter that the Citizen Inventory of these units is ongoing and supporting information in the form of detailed narratives describing the wilderness characters present in the unit and photographic documentation will be compiled and submitted to the BLM at a future date. The eight additional units identified as having potential wilderness characteristics include:

- Oreana Spring
- Mount Irish Range East
- Golden Gate Range
- The Seeps
- Pahrnagat Range
- Mount Irish Massif/Sanderson Mountain
- North Pahroc Hills
- McCutcheon Spring

The BLM will accept and review additional supporting information regarding these eight units and any others identified during the RMP process by citizen inventory efforts. The BLM recommends that additional inventory information should be submitted as public input prior to the development of the RMP draft preliminary alternatives in order to receive timely consideration.

4.0 DRAFT PLANNING CRITERIA

The BLM land use planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.4-1) require that the BLM “shall prepare criteria to guide development of the resource management plan or revision, to ensure that it is tailored to the issues previously identified and to ensure that unnecessary data collection and analysis are avoided.” BLM Handbook 1601-1 indicates that planning criteria guide development of the plan by helping to define the planning effort decision space (sometimes called “sideboards”). Planning criteria are generally based upon applicable laws, guidance from the BLM Director or pertinent State Director, and the results of public and governmental participation. The BLM has identified the following preliminary planning criteria for this RMP:

- The BLM will manage BLM-administered lands in the Monument to protect objects and values in accordance with the designating Proclamation, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, FLPMA, and other applicable laws and regulations.
- The RMP will recognize valid existing rights within the Monument.
- Lands covered under the RMP will be public lands administered by the BLM within the BARNM boundary. Decisions made in the RMP will apply exclusively to BLM-administered public lands.
- The BLM will apply a collaborative approach and a multi-jurisdictional approach, when applicable and practical, to determine the desired future conditions for BARNM.
- As practicable, the BLM will strive to make land use plan decisions compatible with existing plans and policies of adjacent local, state, federal, and tribal agencies.
- The BLM will defer preparation of a detailed, implementation-level Transportation and Travel Plan to a future date after the RMP completion.
- The BLM will conduct Native American Tribal consultations in accordance with policy, and tribal concerns will be given due consideration.
- Monitoring of Cultural and Ecological Values (Monument objects) and Adaptive Management will be incorporated into the RMP. Adaptive Management will be applied for implementation of the RMP, with thresholds and triggers indicated where applicable.
- The BLM will review the existing ACECs to determine if they continue to contain relevant and important values and if special management still may be needed to maintain these values under the status as a National Monument. The public will be invited and engaged to provide input on the evaluation of ACECs.
- The BLM will follow procedures for ePlanning and integrate as best possible the emerging process under Planning 2.0.
- The BLM will incorporate a landscape-level approach in this planning effort.
- The BLM will conduct a Class I Cultural Resource Inventory of the Monument.
- The BLM will prepare a historic context for the evaluation of cultural resources identified in the Monument.

5.0 DATA SUMMARY/DATA GAPS

The BLM Ely District staff identified a preliminary list of data and Geographic Information System (GIS) needs required to address resource and use issues and develop and analyze impacts of plan alternatives. This list is included in Appendix B of the BARNM RMP and EIS Preparation Plan and is available on request.

In many cases, existing resource information is available and will be used in preparation of the RMP. However, some data need to be updated, compiled, and converted into digital format for use in the planning process. Data manipulation and GIS work will be required to address issues, formulate alternatives, and conduct impact analysis for this RMP. Other data adequacy needs will be driven as particular issues may arise (e.g., wildlife, wild horses and burros, lands and realty).

Based on the information collected during scoping and the preparation of the Analysis of Management Situation, the BLM will update the preliminary data list to capture any additional data needs. The BLM will continue to collect and update data as needed throughout the RMP and EIS process.

6.0 SUMMARY OF FUTURE STEPS IN THE PROCESS

The next step in the BLM's planning process is to develop draft management alternatives, goals, and objectives. The BLM will consider the comments submitted during scoping and the issues identified in this scoping report to develop a range of RMP alternatives in partnership with cooperating agencies. Alternatives will be responsive to the planning issues identified in this report and will achieve the planning process goals and objectives. Draft alternatives will be made available to cooperating agencies and the public for comment. Based on input received, the alternatives may be changed or a new alternative developed.

Following the development of the alternatives, the BLM will perform an analysis of all the alternatives and will select its preferred alternative. The preferred alternative is often made up of a combination of management option components from the various alternatives to provide the best mix and balance of multiple land and resource uses to resolve the planning issues. After the alternatives are analyzed and the EIS is assembled, the Draft RMP and EIS will be released.

The Draft RMP and EIS will be made available via the RMP project website (see Section 2.1). The availability of the Draft RMP and EIS will be announced in a Federal Register Notice of Availability and a 90-day public comment period will follow. Public meetings will be held during the 90-day comment period on the Draft RMP and EIS. Publication of the Draft RMP and EIS is anticipated in the summer of 2017.

At the conclusion of the Draft RMP and EIS public comment period, the Draft RMP and EIS will be revised based on comments. After changes are made, a Proposed RMP and Final EIS will be published. The availability of the proposed document will be announced in the Federal Register, and a 30-day public protest period will follow regarding the proposed planning-level decisions (43 CFR Part 1610.5.2). If necessary, a notice will be published in the Federal Register requesting comments on significant changes made as a result of protest. Concurrently, the Governor of Nevada will review the document for consistency with approved state and local plans, policies, and programs.

The BLM will address any public protests or inconsistencies identified by the Governor and will publish a Record of Decision and Approved RMP. A Federal Register notice will be published to announce the Record of Decision and Approved RMP. Publication of the Record of Decision and Approved RMP is anticipated in the winter of 2018.

7.0 BLM CONTACT INFORMATION

The public is invited and encouraged to participate throughout the planning process for the BARNM RMP and EIS. The public can review the progress of the RMP and EIS at the project website (see Section 2.1), which will be updated with information, documents, and announcements throughout the duration of the RMP and EIS preparation.

For additional information on the planning process, to be added or removed from the mailing list, or to submit a comment on the RMP, please use the following contact information:

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