

the plan includes only those lands withdrawn from the BLM by Public Law 106-65, which is approximately 2 million acres. A map is available for review at the Las Vegas Field Office, 4765 W Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89108.

2. Preliminary Planning Criteria

A. Provide for military use and management of specified resources.

B. Actions must comply with laws, executive orders, and regulations including Public Law 106-65.

C. The planning area is defined as that portion of the NTTR which was withdrawn from the BLM. The NTTR plan will include planning determinations for all public lands located within the planning area boundary, including those public lands administered by the Department of Interior, the Department of Defense.

D. Decisions about specific range, wildlife, and watershed improvements will not be made in the NTTR plan, but rather in subsequent activity-level plans (i.e. habitat management plans, allotment management plans) designed to implement the NTTR plan decisions.

E. Management use and protection of water, water resources, riparian zones, and other related values will be given a high priority.

F. Use the Geographic Information System (GIS) when digitized information is available.

G. Watershed determinations will be based on hydrographic basins.

H. The NTTR plan will incorporate a method for amending the NTTR plan on a regularly scheduled basis.

I. The RMP will be consistent to the maximum extent possible with the plans and management programs of local governments, consistent with Federal laws and guiding regulations and coordinated with other Federal agencies where appropriate.

J. Participation by the public will be a factor in decision making. The Keystone Dialog will help guide preparation of the RMP based on previous coordination with the public.

K. Valid existing management decisions from the 1992 Nellis Air Force Range Resource Plan will be brought forward into the Draft NTTR Resource Management Plan, with relevant objectives and management directions carried forward into the NTTR plan.

L. The NTTR plan effort will rely on available inventories of the lands and resources as well as data gathered during the planning process to reach sound management decisions. Any decisions requiring additional inventories will be deferred until such

times as the inventories can be conducted.

M. Provide for continued use of resources while maintaining a desired vegetative community, stabilized soils and visual quality.

O. Within the non-attainment area, Clark County Health District regulation will be followed.

3. Preliminary Plan Alternatives

Alternative A is the No Action Alternative. This alternative is the continuation of current management under the existing Nellis Air Force Range Management plan. This alternative provides a baseline for the comparison of the environmental effects of the other alternatives. Alternative B is the alternative supported by the BLM based on data which indicates horses were present in the early 70's throughout the vast majority of the North Range. This alternative adopts and documents the extent of the 1971 Herd Use Area and adopts that portion of the use area within the current NTTR boundary as the Herd Management Area. Further, a "core area" is identified that will be the basis for determining the AML for the entire HMA, in the future. The HMA boundary recognizes that animals will move out of the core area seasonally, but will use the core area the majority of the time.

Alternative C is substantially different than alternative B in that the HMA is limited to an area smaller than the core area of alternative B's HMA.

Alternative D identifies removal of all wild horses from the NTTR.

4. Disciplines Represented on the Planning Team

The RMP/EIS will be comprised of the following disciplines: Team Leader, Wild Horse and Burro Specialist, Wildlife Biologist, Archaeologist, Geologist, Reality Specialist, Hydrologist, Hazardous Material Specialist, Soil Scientist, Fire Management Specialist, Air Force Environmental Staff, Rangeland Management Specialist, Air Force Liaison, Department of Energy Environmental Staff, Riparian and Noxious Weed Specialist.

5. Public Participation

Public Scoping meetings were held as identified in the original Federal Register Notice. Informal public comments and input are encouraged throughout the development of the RMP/EIS. The next formal public comment period will be offered with the publication of the Draft NTTR RMP/EIS

6. Location of Planning Documents

Planning documents and other pertinent materials may be examined at the Las Vegas Field Office located in Las Vegas, Nevada between 7:30 am and 4:15, Monday through Friday.

ADDRESSES/FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

CONTACT: For further information contact Jeffrey G. Steinmetz, Las Vegas Field Office Environmental Protection Specialist and Team Lead for the BLM at Bureau of Land Management, Las Vegas Field Office, 4765 W. Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89108, telephone (702)-647-5097.

Dated: March 6, 2001.

Mark T. Morse,
Field Manager.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NM-930-1310-01; (TXNM 101033)]

New Mexico: Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Lease

Under the provisions of Public Law 97-451, a petition for reinstatement of oil and gas lease TXNM 101033 for lands in Grayson County, Texas, was timely filed and was accompanied by all required rentals and royalties accruing from September 1, 2000, the date of termination.

No valid lease has been issued affecting the lands. The lessee has agreed to new lease terms for rentals and royalties at rates of \$10.00 per acre or fraction thereof and 16²/₃ percent, respectively. The lessee has paid the required \$500 administrative fee and has reimbursed the Bureau of Land Management for the cost of this **Federal Register** notice.

The Lessee has met all the requirements for reinstatement of the lease as set out in Sections 31(d) and (e) of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 188), and the Bureau of Land Management is proposing to reinstate the lease effective September 1, 2000, subject to the original terms and conditions of the lease and the increased rental and royalty rates cited above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lourdes B. Ortiz, BLM, New Mexico State Office, (505) 438-7586.

Dated: March 16, 2001.

Lourdes B. Ortiz,
Land Law Examiner.

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