



**NATIONAL
CONSERVATION
LANDS**

Basin and Range

National Monument

Annual Manager's Report—Fiscal Year 2016



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1 Basin and Range Profile

Designating Authority

Designating Authority: Presidential Proclamation, Number 9297, Establishment of the Basin and Range National Monument

Date of Designation: July 10, 2015

Acreeage

Total Acres in Unit	708,023
BLM Acres	703,585
Other Federal Acres	None
State Acres*	None
Private Acres*	4,438

*State and Private acres are not part of the total unit acres

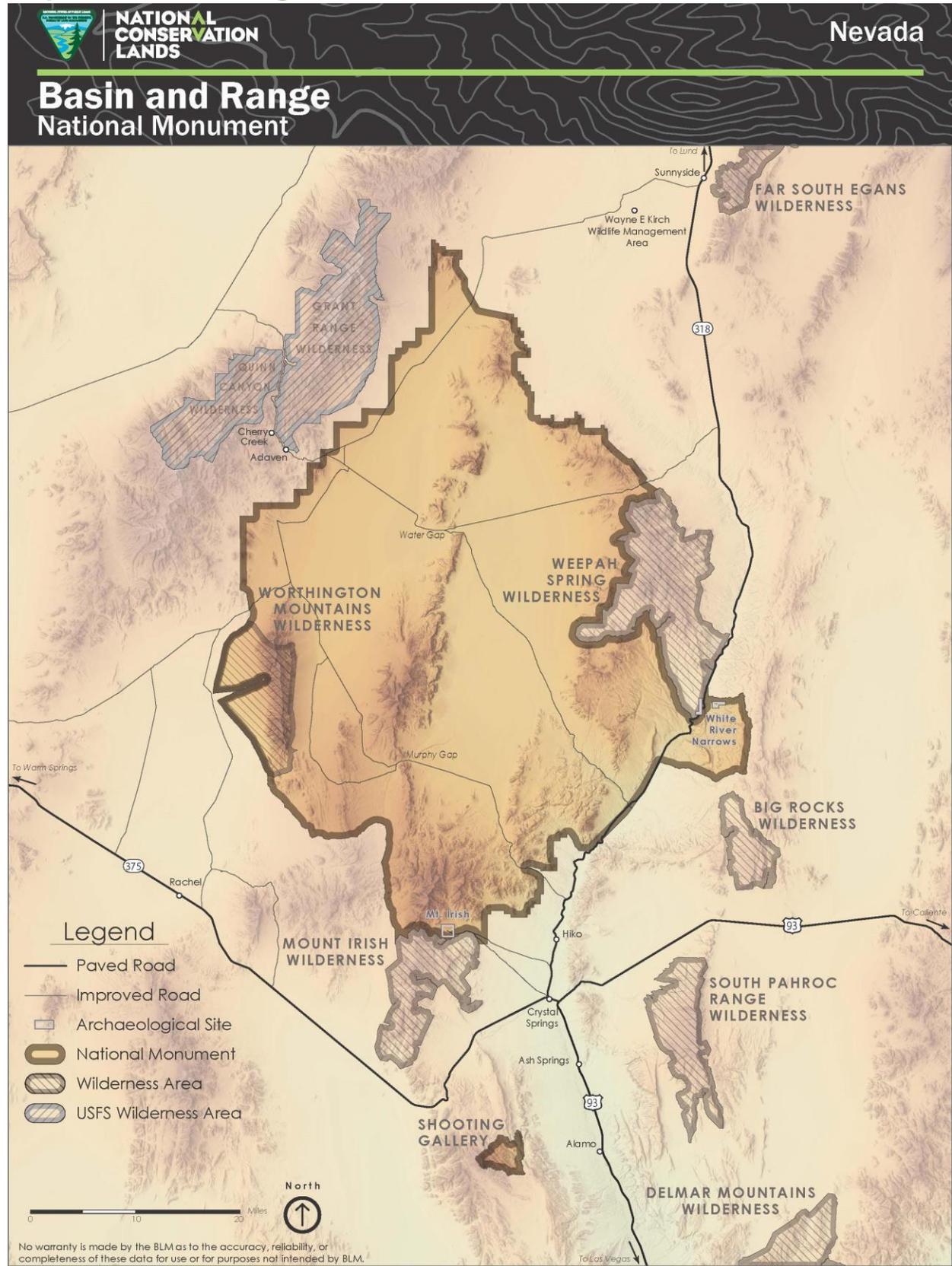
Contact Information

Unit Manager	Alicia Styles
Phone	775-726-8128
E-mail	astyles@blm.gov
Mailing Address	PO Box 237, Caliente, NV 89008
Field Office Name	Not Applicable
District Office Name	Ely District Office
State Office Name	Nevada State Office

Budget

Total Fiscal Year 2016 Budget	\$950,000
Subactivity 1711	\$450,000
Other Subactivities' Contributions	\$500,000
Other Funding	\$408,000 (Special Legislation funding spread over three fiscal years starting in FY16)

Map of Basin and Range National Monument



Managing Partners

N/A. BLM is the sole official manager of this unit.

Staffing

How is the unit's work accomplished? Does it have its own dedicated manager and staff? Does it share staff with another unit, BLM office, or other Federal agency? Summarize the types (e.g., job series) and numbers of staff members. Please include an estimate of the percentage of each staff member's time spent working on the NM or NCA.

A Monument Manager detailed into the position from October 2015 to January 2016. A permanent Monument Manager was hired on January 24, 2016. The Monument Manager (GS-12, 0340 Series) reports to the District Manager and spends 100% of her time working on the National Monument.

A Rangeland Management Specialist (GS-11, 0454 Series) spends 100% of his time working for the National Monument. An Archaeologist (GS-11, 0193 Series) works 50% of his time for the National Monument and spends 50% of his time as Project Manager for a Special Legislation Archaeological Initiative. An Outdoor Recreation Planner (GS-9, 0023 Series) was hired on April 18, 2016. He spends 50% of his time working for the National Monument and 50% of his time working for the Caliente Field Office.

The Ely District Manager, Public Affairs Specialist, Rangeland Management Program Lead, Rangeland Management Specialists, Archaeologist, and GIS Specialist spent time working on the Monument in FY16. An Inter-Disciplinary Team (ID Team) was assigned to work on the Basin and Range National Monument Resource Management Plan (RMP). The ID Team is composed of approximately twenty BLM employees within the Ely District who are developing and authoring the RMP for the Basin and Range National Monument (BARNM).



Monument staff at a scoping meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada

2 Planning and NEPA

Status of the Resource Management Plan

Plan type, date of latest milestone, plan status, implementation strategy status, evaluation status, next steps, etc.

The Proclamation 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.” The Preparation Plan to guide the BARNM RMP process was submitted to and approved by the Washington Office in FY16. The Notice of Intent for the RMP was published in the Federal Register and the public scoping period was held from June 1, 2016 to July 21, 2016. Six public scoping meetings were held during this time. The Analysis of Management Situation is nearing completion in FY16.

BLM anticipates the development of alternatives and the Draft Resource Management Plan and associated Environmental Impact Statement in FY17.

Status of Activity Plans

Travel and transportation inventory is nearing completion for the planning area.

Status of the RMP Implementation Strategy

Include a summary of the current status of the RMP Implementation Strategy. If it is complete, summarize the key points from the Strategy. Also, explain what the unit did during the fiscal year in terms of accomplishing the goals from the Strategy.

The focus in FY16 is development of the RMP.

Key National Environmental Policy Act Actions and/or Project Authorizations

Please describe any NEPA actions or authorizations that affected the unit during the past fiscal year.

1) Murphy’s Gap Application for Permit to Drill Well No. 14-23 for Makoil, Inc. Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-NV-L030-2015-0003-EA)

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Ely District Basin and Range National Monument signed a Decision Record for Murphy’s Gap APD Well No. 14-23 for Makoil, Inc. on February 26, 2016. The public comment period for the project closed on October 20, 2015. The Final EA addressed concerns raised during the public comment period.

The BLM received an application for permit to drill (APD) an oil and gas well from Makoil, Inc. on July, 31, 2014. No hydraulic fracturing was proposed in the APD and amendments. The application proposes a single exploratory well on an existing lease in the Basin and Range National Monument in Coal Valley, Lincoln County, Nevada approximately two miles southwest of the Murphy Gap Reservoir. The project would disturb 5.7 acres.

Makoil, Inc. leased a parcel for oil and gas exploration and development in 2010 for a period of ten years. The Basin and Range National Monument was designated in July 2015. As stated in the Proclamation, “The establishment of the monument is subject to valid existing rights.” Because this area was leased for fluid minerals prior to designation of the Monument, the proposed project is considered a valid existing right.

The EA analyzed three alternatives: Alternative A – APD as proposed by Makoil, Inc., Alternative B – alterations to the proposal to address resource concerns, and the No Action Alternative. The Notice of Staking (NOS) was distributed to agencies, tribes, and posted in the Caliente Field Office public room in July 2014. BLM determined the APD to be complete in November 2014.

During preparation of the EA, the public was notified of the proposed action by posting the project on the NEPA register. A public comment period was offered between September 14, 2015 and September 25, 2015. Based on public input, the comment period was extended to October 20, 2015. The public comment period was announced on the Ely District website, the project website, a press release sent out, and the press release was posted in the public room at the Caliente Field Office.

The BLM received approximately nine external comments from individuals, organizations, and government agencies on the proposed action during the comment period. Most comments expressed concerns about potential impact to water resources, the Basin and Range National Monument, and wildlife. Others expressed concerns about hydraulic fracturing, air quality/climate change, cultural resources, soil resources, visual resources, mineral resources, and coordination and consultation. Sections of the final EA were revised to include additional impact analysis to address resource concerns.

Alternative B, with the exception of the well pad location, was selected over the other alternatives because it meets the purpose and need for the action, addresses resource concerns, and results in the least amount of environmental impact. The well pad location adjacent to the roadway, as presented in Alternative A, was selected for human health and safety reasons and less visibility to the public.

The No Action Alternative would deny drilling of the proposed oil well. This alternative would not comply with the legal right to reasonable surface occupancy as granted to Makoil, Inc. through their mineral leases issued under the provisions of the Mineral Leasing Act 1920, 30 USC 181 et. Seq., as amended.

To date, no surface disturbance or activity has occurred on this project since the DR was signed and APD authorized. The lease will expire in 2020.

2) 2016 Best in the Desert “Vegas to Reno” the Long Way Race Event Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-NV-B020-2016-0041-EA)

The Best in the Desert (BITD) applied for a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) to hold the Vegas to Reno Long Way 2016 competitive event for trucks, cars, buggies, motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles.

This race was proposed to start on Friday, August 19, 2016 near the town of Alamo, NV and finish near Dayton, NV on Saturday, August 20. The proposed route was entirely on existing roads. Most of these roads occurred on public lands managed by three BLM Districts (Ely, Battle Mountain and Carson City districts), including an approximately 37-mile segment passing through the Basin and Range National Monument in the Ely District.

A preliminary EA was released for public comment on July 1, 2016 and the public comment period ended on August 3, 2016. The event generated a great deal of publicity, public interest and comments.

The preliminary and revised EA analyzed four alternatives which are briefly summarized as follows.

The Proposed Action, as submitted by BITD in its SRP application, was a two-day, approximately 650-mile off-highway vehicle race on existing roads, beginning near Alamo, Nevada and heading basically west and northwest to end at Dayton, Nevada. Shortly after the SRP application was submitted in July 2015, the *Presidential Proclamation – Establishment of the Basin and Range National Monument* ("Proclamation") was issued. The proposed race course included approximately 37 miles, all on existing, county-maintained graded roads, through the new Monument.

The Beatty-to-Dayton Route alternative analyzed a 525-mile southeast-to-northwest route beginning near Beatty, Nevada. The southern part of this route was the race course used most recently in 2015 for the annual event. Under this alternative the race course did not include the Monument. It intersected the Proposed Action route near Tonopah, Nevada and was identical to it for the remaining 313 miles.

The Transfer Route alternative analyzed a 598-mile long route that was the same as under the Proposed Action except that the easternmost segment of the route would be reconfigured to avoid the Monument. Participants would be required to transport their race vehicles around the Monument via highway.

The No Action alternative described and compared the environmental consequences that would result if none of the three action alternatives were implemented. Under this alternative no SRP would be issued and the applicant would not be authorized to conduct the event across public lands.

Additional mitigation considered: All three action alternatives included mandatory resource protection measures and stipulations designed to minimize environmental effects. In accordance with the directives of the Proclamation and in response to public comments expressing concern about potential effects to the Monument, BLM worked with BITD to develop additional mitigation to apply to the Monument segment of the Proposed Action route. Under this mitigation, vehicles did not race through the Basin and Range National Monument; instead, the vehicles crossed the Monument at controlled speeds and without passing, only resuming the race once outside of the Monument boundary. This mitigation, which included enforcement measures, was designed to further reduce or nearly eliminate potential impacts within the Monument. The EA was revised to add these measures to the Proposed Action, as follows:

- **Noncompetitive traversal of the Monument:** A checkpoint was established at the entrance to the Monument traversal (mile 67 of the event). Each vehicle's time was

recorded on arriving at that checkpoint. Time was re-started for each vehicle at the exit checkpoint at the end of the Monument traversal (mile 105 of the event). Time spent traversing the Monument was not included in the vehicle's race time. All activities at these checkpoints were in previously-disturbed, unvegetated areas outside of the Monument.

- ***Driver notification of the Monument:*** At the staffed checkpoints at the start and end of the Monument noncompetitive traversal, drivers were individually, personally notified of the speed limit and no passing zone by signs held in front of them by event personnel, in addition to signage posted along the route. Event participants were not allowed to proceed into the Monument until given a thumbs up from event staff. This staggered starting times at the entry checkpoint by no less than one minute between participating vehicles. These mitigation measures and the importance of protecting Monument values were also emphasized at the pre-race meeting.

- ***Minimizing vehicle failure in the Monument:*** At the checkpoint before the Monument, vehicles were inspected and not allowed to continue if they were leaking fluids, or if they showed other signs of impending mechanical failure, tire failure, etc. that caused them to break down or need assistance within the Monument. Drivers were instructed that if their vehicle experienced mechanical difficulty while crossing the Monument, they pulled to the side and stayed within the previously-disturbed area without impacting vegetation or blocking other vehicles. Vehicles that needed to leave the course were escorted out via Seaman Wash Road, a well-maintained road normally passable by two-wheel-drive vehicles.

- ***Maximum speed limit in the Monument*** was 35 miles per hour. The GPS tracking devices on each participating vehicle monitored speed and location. Event personnel and BLM staff also checked speeds with radar at undisclosed locations along the Monument traversal. Heavy penalties were imposed for excess speeds: 5 minutes added to participants' time for every 1 mph over the speed limit. Times were checked at the exit checkpoint to confirm that vehicles took at least 64 minutes to traverse the approximately 37 miles through the Monument.

- ***No passing allowed in the Monument:*** A no passing zone throughout the Monument was monitored and enforced by on-the-ground personnel. Because it was noncompetitive, there was no motivation to pass. Sequentially-numbered stickers were placed on vehicles at the first checkpoint, and checked at the second checkpoint to confirm that no passing occurred.

- ***Minimizing support personnel in the Monument:*** No support crews were allowed in the Monument except in an emergency or specifically summoned by race monitoring personnel to assist a vehicle in distress.

- ***Compliance monitoring*** throughout the event course involved BLM managers, law enforcement rangers, recreation specialists, and other BLM personnel in conjunction with BITD staff, with an increased presence in the Monument.

The Proposed Action was selected and the DR and FONSI were signed on August 12, 2016. The night before the event, a helicopter from Nellis Air Force Base experienced mechanical difficulty and crashed in close proximity to the race course in Basin and Range National Monument. Due to the need to secure the accident scene, the event was re-routed, and the event followed the Transfer Route that had been analyzed in the EA.

3) Conservation Easement for *City* Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-NV-L000-2016-0002-EA)

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) prepared the Environmental Assessment (EA) for

the proposed donation to BLM of the Conservation Easement for *City* in Basin and Range National Monument, Ely District Office, Nevada (DOI-BLM-NV-L0000-2016-0002-EA). This EA analyzed the effects of accepting a conservation easement on the private land containing and surrounding the land artwork *City* located in Lincoln County, Nevada. The easement covers 1,316.5 acres of private land. The EA analyzed two alternatives: the Proposed Action requested by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art that the BLM accept the donation of the conservation easement and the No Action Alternative.

During preparation of the EA, the public was notified of the Proposed Action by posting on the BLM's ePlanning website. On January 26, 2016, an interdisciplinary team conducted internal scoping and analyzed the potential consequences of the proposed action. The BLM accepted public comments on the EA for a 30-day period between July 8, 2016, and August 8, 2016. The public comment period was announced on the Ely District website and the BLM ePlanning website, as well as through letters to interested parties and a press release.

The BLM received twelve external comments from individuals, organizations, and government agencies on the Proposed Action. Commenters included: Conservation Lands Foundation, Renewable Envoy, Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club in Nevada and Eastern California, Nevada Department of Wildlife, a livestock grazing permittee, and private citizens in Nevada and Utah. Some of the comment letters offered suggestions for further analysis and/or consideration. The comment letters were categorized into four general positions:

- supporting the No Action Alternative (4 commenters)
- supporting the Proposed Action (4 commenters)
- supporting more alternatives (1 commenter)
- neutral or no stated opinion on which action should be selected (3 commenters)

Sections of the EA were revised to address the public comments and concerns. It is anticipated that this project will be completed in FY17.

3

Year's Projects and Accomplishments

General Accomplishments

Examples include: anniversary of designation, exciting work, significant events and activities, accomplishments made in partnership with other programs (including cross-cutting work), etc. Include an estimate of the number of visitors to the unit.

Please note which accomplishments fulfill elements of your State-level NLCS Strategy.

Basin and Range National Monument celebrated the one-year anniversary of its designation in July 2016. The Friends of Basin and Range held a celebratory outing that included a camp-out, hiking and a graffiti removal project.

The Sierra Club held a weekend outing in the Monument during Memorial Day weekend. They conducted a route restoration project in an adjacent wilderness area and spent a day hiking and sight-seeing in the Monument.

We did not have established methods for tracking visitors across the Monument in FY16, but an estimate for visitation is approximately 550 to 1,100 people visited the Monument in FY16. Visitation numbers were estimated using trail register voluntary sign-in sheets at public sites, such as White River Narrows Archaeological District, Mt. Irish Archaeological District, and Shooting Gallery public rock art site, in addition to known outings, such as Friends of Basin and Range and a Resource Advisory Council field tour.

The Lincoln County Roads Department had a traffic counter on Seaman Wash Road near State Route 318 from November 17 to December 1, 2016. In this two week time period, they counted 311 vehicles traveling on this road (247 westbound and 64 eastbound). If this count was an accurate sample of the visitors, there could have been more than 7,000 cars entering the Monument last year. Based on the average number of people in a group (2) at the public archaeological sites in the Monument, this could total as many as 14,000 visitors.

Traffic counters will be installed by BLM in FY17 to obtain more accurate visitor numbers and locations visited within the Monument.

The following accomplishments fulfill elements of the BLM Nevada National Landscape Conservation System Strategy:

Theme 1: Ensuring the Conservation, Protection, and Restoration of NLCS Values.

Goal 1A: Clearly communicate that the conservation, protection, and restoration of NLCS values is the highest priority in NLCS planning and management, consistent with the designating legislation or presidential proclamation.

2. Implement management plans for NLCS units as funding permits. Focus management emphasis on completing projects identified through planning efforts.

The Preparation Plan for the Monument RMP was completed and approved by the Washington Office in FY16. The Notice of Intent for the RMP was published in the Federal Register and the public scoping period was held from June 1, 2016 to July 21, 2016. Six public scoping meetings were held during this time.

Goal 1E. Limit discretionary uses to those compatible with the conservation, protection, and restoration of the values for which NLCS lands were designated.

1. Continue to implement management plans for each NLCS unit. Engage interested publics, Resource Advisory Councils (RACs), Tribal, State and local governments during the development of management plans. Identify potential conflicts and work with stakeholders to resolve conflicts before significant investment of resources in projects.

The Monument Manager, Archaeologist, and Native American Coordinator met with several tribes before, during, and after the scoping period to engage them in the planning process. The Mojave Southern-Great Basin Resource Advisory Council (RAC) created a Basin and Range Subcommittee to participate in the RMP process. A RAC tour of the Monument was held on August 7, 2016.

Current Areas of Focus

What were the major issues during the past year? What is being done to address them? What issues are expected to arise in the next year and what is being done to prepare for them?

Were there any significant disturbances during the past year? What was done to address these? (NOTE: Please do not include duplicative content from the following "Stressors" section.)

The RMP was a major area of focus in the Monument for FY16. Resource issues and concerns were identified during the scoping period. Polarized ideas on how the first BLM National Monument in Nevada should be managed are some of the major issues that we hope to address in FY17. We continue to encourage stakeholders to seek compatible uses regarding the resources that interest them the most.

Another major issue during FY16 was an application for a Special Recreation Permit to hold a competitive truck and buggy race through a small portion of the newly-designated Monument. The event was highly publicized and points of view were generally polarized regarding whether the portion of this event should be allowed to pass through the Monument or not.

On the night of August 18, 2016, a Pave Hawk helicopter from Nellis Air Force Base experienced mechanical difficulty and crashed in close proximity to the Best in the Desert race course in Basin and Range National Monument. Due to the need to secure the accident scene, the event was re-routed, and the event followed the Transfer Route that had been analyzed in the EA. Nellis AFB and the BLM are working on a restoration plan to re-seed and restore the small crash site (approximately one acre in size) in early FY17.

Education, Outreach, and Interpretation

Describe the educational, outreach, and interpretation programs, projects, and work completed at the unit in the past fiscal year.

The Archaeologist presented information regarding the National Monument at the Nevada Archaeological Association and the Great Basin Anthropological Conference.

Monument staff presented outreach information and answered questions at the BLM Labor Day booth in Pioche, Nevada.

Information about the Monument was presented to all elementary school-age children in Lincoln County at Community Cares Day at Caliente Elementary School in September 2016.

Many outreach efforts in FY16 were focused on the Monument RMP. Six scoping meetings were held throughout the state to outreach to the public. On June 16, 2016 BLM Ely District Manager Michael Herder and Monument Manager Alicia Styles held a State Agency Briefing in the Guinn Room of the Nevada State Capitol building in Carson City, Nevada. The briefing was coordinated by Skip Canfield of the Nevada State Clearinghouse. 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 (NACO). Representatives from the BLM Nevada State Office also attended the briefing. Discussion topics at the briefing included but were not limited to county involvement, travel and transportation planning, valid existing rights, wild horses, and recreation.

Partnerships

Describe the partners or friends groups that collaborated with the unit in the past fiscal year. Briefly describe any significant partnerships between the unit and outside groups.

Friends Basin and Range formed in FY16. They held their first official meeting in January 2016 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Conservation Lands Foundation staff and the general public who support the Basin and Range National Monument designation, primarily from the Las Vegas area, participate in the friends group.

Volunteers

Briefly describe the status or any major accomplishments of the unit's volunteer program. Include an estimate of the total number of volunteer hours at the unit.

Monitoring of cultural sites is accomplished by a volunteer group of site stewards in Basin and Range National Monument. Site stewards monitor cultural areas, such as rock art sites, and document any changes to the sites (i.e. vandalism and other resource issues). The Basin and Range National Monument has eight active Site Stewards from the Nevada Site Stewardship Program. In FY16, they monitored 21 sites and reported 220 hours

monitoring cultural resources. The Friends of Basin and Range spent time supporting the Monument in FY16. Activities included trash clean-ups, graffiti removal projects, and outreach and support for the area.



Friends of Basin and Range

Land (or Interests in Land) Acquisitions

Include information on any land, title, covenant, or easement acquisitions from the fiscal year, if any have taken place. If not, enter "N/A."

The BLM invested time and resources toward acquisition of a conservation easement for approximately 1,300 acres of private land surrounding and containing the land artwork *City*. The Los Angeles County Museum of Art and Triple Aught Foundation have an existing conservation easement on the artwork and surrounding area, which Los Angeles County Museum of Art intends to donate to BLM. An Environmental Assessment was released for public comment in FY16. We anticipate completion of the easement in FY17.

4 Science

Science

Include current science projects (name, description, key words, principal investigator, project status, BLM's contributed funds [if any]), future science opportunities, and status of unit's Science Plan.

Special legislation in Nevada created a funding mechanism for the Lincoln County Archaeological Initiative (LCAI). The Lincoln County Archaeological Initiative funds projects for the inventory, evaluation, protection, and management of unique archeological resources in Lincoln County. The following is a list of funded projects that address either sites located in the Monument or resources known to occur in the Monument:

- Inventory, Evaluation and Management Assessment of Known Rock Art Sites on BLM Managed Lands in Lincoln County, Nevada – National Rock Art Foundation (NRAF)
- Inventory and Evaluation of Historic Transportation Systems for the National Register of Historic Places – Gnomon, Inc.
- Rock Art Sites at White River Narrows – NRAF
- Class III Inventory of ACEC's – BLM and ASM Affiliates
- Historic Rephotography, Documentation, and NRHP Evaluations of Twenty-two Historic Mine Sites in Lincoln County, Nevada - Logan Simpson Design
- Public interpretation of Select Rock Art Sites in the Mount Irish Archaeological District - NRAF
- Understanding the Archaeology and Rock Art of Lincoln County - NRAF
- Formative period occupations in northwest Lincoln County: interpreting settlement patterns using Class III inventory data and geomorphic visibility bias modeling – SWCA Environmental Consultants
- Archaeological Context for Human Behavior and Environmental Change – Desert Research Institute
- Educational Outreach for Archaeological Awareness in Lincoln County, NV – Far Western
- An Archaeological Study of Ethno Historic Occupations at Logan City, NV – ASM Affiliates
- Public Interpretation of Three Rock Art sites in the Pahranaagat Region of Lincoln County, Nevada: Ash Springs, Crystal Wash and Shooting Gallery ACEC – NRAF
- A Ranching and Farming Context for Lincoln County, ca. 1855-1934 – SWCA Environmental Consultants

More information on each of these projects can be obtained on the following webpage http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely_field_office/blm_information/special_legislation/lincoln_county_archaeological.html or from Nicholas Pay, Archaeological Resources Team Chair for the Lincoln County Archaeological Initiative.

5 Resources, Objects, Values, and Stressors

The “resources, objects, and values” (ROVs) in this section should be those identified in the designating authority of the unit. Where applicable, please replace “acres” with “miles” for linear features like trails and rivers.

Note: The BLM NM&NCA Performance Measure calls for the inventory, assessment, and monitoring of each unit’s resources, objects, and values. Please name each ROV listed in the designating authority of the NM&NCA you manage, include total acres in the unit, total acres inventoried for the presence of each ROV since designation, total acres where that ROV occurs on the unit, and how many acres of that ROV were monitored this past fiscal year.

Cultural Resources

According to BLM Policy (BLM Manual Section 8100) a Cultural Resource is:

“a definite location of human activity, occupation, or use identifiable through field inventory (survey), historical documentation, or oral evidence. The term includes archaeological, historic, or architectural sites, structures, or places with important public and scientific uses, and may include definite locations (sites or places) of traditional cultural or religious importance to specified social and/or cultural groups. Cultural resources are concrete, material places and things that are located, classified, ranked, and managed through the system of identifying, protecting, and utilizing for public benefit described in this Manual series. They may be but are not necessarily eligible for the National Register.”

Humans have been present on the public lands managed by the BLM for more than 10,000 years. Over time, these lands have been impacted by human occupation and use. As a result, the land holds invaluable evidence of human prehistory and history.

Archaeological sites and historic landscapes give us important insights into the ways human activities and the environment have been linked together through time and how seemingly minor cultural practices can contribute to substantial environmental change. Discovering, studying, and understanding the evidence of past human influences on the land gives the BLM and the public critical background as we consider how to use and manage the same land today.

In December of 2015, the BLM initiated a Class I Cultural Resources Inventory. The report for this inventory is in draft form at this time. It is anticipated that this report will be completed in FY17. This report, when complete, will present a comprehensive view of all the known archaeological, historic, cultural and traditional places within the Basin and Range National Monument. This inventory includes a compilation and analysis of all reasonably available cultural resource data and literature, and a management-focused, interpretive, narrative overview, and synthesis of the data.

Cultural resources are found throughout the Monument. According to the draft Class I inventory report, there have been 89 cultural resource inventories completed in the BARNM, all of which occurred between 1975 and 2015. Cultural Resource Inventories have

been completed for 35,909 acres within the BARNM. During these inventories, there were 709 cultural resources documented with the Basin and Range National Monument. These documented resources include:

Isolated Artifacts

85 isolated finds of the prehistoric period

9 isolated finds of the historic period

Cultural Resource Sites

414 sites of the prehistoric period

75 sites with artifacts present from both the prehistoric and ethnohistoric time periods

16 sites of the ethnohistoric period

2 sites with artifacts present from both the prehistoric and historic time periods

82 sites of the historic period

Of the 709 resources documented, there is a single property listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), which is the White River Narrows Archaeological District. There are 272 properties eligible for the NRHP. There are 405 properties that are not eligible for the NRHP. The remaining 31 properties have not been evaluated for their eligibility to the NRHP. Completion of the Class I Inventory and draft Historic Context for the BARNM is anticipated in FY17.



Petroglyphs at Shooting Gallery rock art site

The following Monument objects were specifically listed in the Presidential Proclamation.

Cultural Resources	
Rare obsidian Clovis point	White River Narrows Historic District
Campsites and artifacts around prehistoric Coal Valley	Mount Irish Archaeological Area
Excavated Civa Shelter II in the Golden Gate Range	Shooting Gallery
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • worked bone • shell beads • seed processing equipment • animal remains • clay stockpiles • projectile points 	Prehistoric rock art
	Pahranagat style of rock art
	Shooting Gallery rock features (hunting blinds)
	Worthington Mining District
	Freiberg Mining District
	Land art (City)

Cultural Resources Status and Trend Table

Status of Resource, Object, or Value	Trend
Baseline inventories have not been completed.	Not Applicable

Cultural Resources Inventory, Assessment, Monitoring Table

Acres in Unit	Acres Inventoried	Acres Possessing Object	Sites Monitored in FY16
703,585	35,909	5,996	21

Note: Cultural Resources monitoring is measured by sites monitored not by Acres Monitored.

Stressors Affecting Cultural Resources

Please describe the stressors (e.g. climate change, vehicle traffic, invasive species, fire, etc.) that are currently affecting the resource, object, or value described above.

Stressors have not been identified for Monument objects. It is anticipated that these will be identified through the RMP process, and/or the science plan.

Natural Resources

The natural resources within the Monument span the spectrum from low elevation mixed desert scrublands through sagebrush communities to montane pine forests. The diversity of plant communities lends itself to a diversity of wildlife species. The following list (from the Proclamation) further illustrates the diversity of flora and fauna in BARNM.

Resource Category	Natural Object		
Flora	Big sagebrush Black sagebrush Little sagebrush Yellow rabbitbrush Saltbush Mormon tea Indian rice grass Sandberg bluegrass Needlegrass Needle and thread	White river catseye Cholla Spinystar Englemann's hedgehog Cactus Mojave kingcup Cactus Tulip pricklypear Grizzly bear pricklypear Blaine fishhook cactus Singleleaf pinyon	Utah juniper Curl-leaf mountain Mahogany Quaking aspen Idaho fescue Blue bunch wheatgrass Ponderosa pine Limber pine Bristlecone pine
Fauna	Desert bighorn sheep Mule deer Rocky Mountain elk Pronghorn Mountain lion Bobcat Kit fox Cottontail rabbit Pygmy rabbit Black-tailed jackrabbit Pale kangaroo mouse Dark kangaroo mouse Greater short-horned lizard Desert spiny lizard Yellow-backed spiny lizard Great Basin collared lizard Great Basin fence lizard	Common zebra-tailed lizard Long-nosed leopard lizard Northern sagebrush lizard Common side- blotched lizard Desert horned lizard Great Basin skink Great Basin whiptail Gila monster Desert nightsnake Great Basin rattlesnake Long-nosed snake Sonoran mountain kingsnake Striped whipsnake Ringneck snake Gopher snake	Western terrestrial garter snake Great Basin spadefoot toad Western toad Baja California treefrog Chukar Gambel's quail Sage thrasher Brewer's sparrow Western burrowing owl Pinyon jay Clark's nutcracker Mountain bluebird Loggerhead shrike Green-tailed towhee Golden eagles Cooper's hawk Ferruginous hawk



Natural resources in the Basin and Range National Monument

Natural Resources Status and Trend Table

Status of Resource, Object, or Value	Trend
Baseline inventories have not been completed.	Not Applicable

Natural Resources Inventory, Assessment, Monitoring Table

Acres in Unit	Acres Inventoried	Acres Possessing Object	Acres Monitored in FY16
703,585	Not Applicable	TBD	Not Applicable

Past inventories and monitoring have been completed for noxious and invasive weeds, lands with wilderness character, and rangeland health assessments for portions of the Monument. A lichen survey of the area began in FY16.

Stressors Affecting Natural Resources

Please describe the stressors (e.g. climate change, vehicle traffic, invasive species, fire, etc.) that are currently affecting the resource, object, or value described above.

Stressors have not been identified for all Monument objects. It is anticipated that these will be identified through the RMP process, and/or the science plan. Invasive species are one of the potential stressors for vegetation resources. In several of the fire scars, in Irish Mountain and the Seaman Mountains, invasive species, such as cheatgrass and tumble mustard have become well established, and will continue to pose issues in the future if fires are not successfully rehabilitated.

Geologic Resources

The geology of the BARNM provides for dramatic scenery and spectacular underground recreational opportunities. The following list includes Geologic Resources identified in the

Proclamation.



Geologic Objects	
Natural arches	Golden Gate Range
Sheer cliffs	Garden Valley
"Alamo bolide impact" evidence	Coal Valley
Limestone ridges	Mt Irish Range
Three caves	Mount Irish
Stalactites	Worthington Mountains
Stalagmites	Leviathan Cave
Flow stones	
Soda straws	
Cave shield	
Rim pools	

Geologic Resources Status and Trend Table

Status of Resource, Object, or Value	Trend
Baseline inventories have not been completed.	Not Applicable

Geologic Resources Inventory, Assessment, Monitoring Table

Acres in Unit	Acres Inventoried	Acres Possessing Object	Acres Monitored in FY16
703,585	Not Applicable	TBD	Not Applicable

Stressors Affecting Geologic Resources

Please describe the stressors (e.g. climate change, vehicle traffic, invasive species, fire, etc.) that are currently affecting the resource, object, or value described above.

Stressors have not been identified for Monument objects. It is anticipated that these will be identified through the RMP process, and/or the science plan.

Rangeland Resources and Livestock Grazing

The Proclamation for BARNM lists ranching as one of the cultural traditions in the area, “The land tells the story of a rich cultural tradition. From the earliest human inhabitants 13,000 years ago, to miners and ranchers in the past century and a half, to a modern artist in recent decades, the area's residents have created and maintain notable legacies.” Later on the Proclamation elaborates on this history, “During the late 19th century, Basque and other ranchers brought sheep and cattle ranching into Garden Valley, and ranching remains to this day.”

The Proclamation states, “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.”

A Rangeland Administration Strategy Plan was developed for the Monument in August 2015 by Rangeland Management Specialists to present recommendations for the short and long-term management of the area.

There are 31 livestock grazing allotments within BARNM on public lands. Of the 31 allotments within the Monument, ten are completely within the Monument while portions of 21 allotments are both inside and outside the Monument boundary. One allotment (Cottonwood/Quin Canyon allotment) is administered by the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest-Ely Ranger District.

There currently are 23 livestock permittees. Some allotments are grazed in common by two or more livestock permittees. Authorized grazing use includes both cattle and sheep. There are currently 19 permittees that graze only cattle. There is one permittee that grazes only sheep. There are 3 permittees that graze cattle and sheep. Total active use within allotments which are part of the Monument is 48,351 animal unit months (AUMs). Authorized grazing use is in accordance with established use periods or seasons of use for the allotment.

Grazing periods of use within the BARNM vary and include both seasonal and yearlong. Seasons include fall/winter/spring period and spring/summer/fall period. Grazing systems may include rest-rotation, deferred rotation, and deferred rest-rotation. Allotments that are grazed seasonally may include grazing in other allotments outside the BARNM. Grazing operations systems also includes base property to which grazing preference is attached.

Livestock are moved between pastures, allotments, base property or other pastures based on the season of use or period of use developed for the grazing system. The majority of

sheep operators include grazing use on several allotments outside the BARNM. Livestock distribution is controlled by various methods including water locations, herding and fencing.

Rangeland Resources and Livestock Grazing Status and Trend Table

Status of Resource, Object, or Value	Trend
Baseline inventories have not been completed. Rangeland Health Assessments of allotments and evaluations in relation to Standards and Guidelines are on-going.	Not Applicable

Rangeland Resources and Livestock Grazing Inventory, Assessment, Monitoring Table

Acres in Unit	Acres Inventoried	Acres Possessing Object	Acres Monitored in FY16
703,585	Not Applicable	703,585	Allotment monitoring (ML Program Element) The following allotments were monitored in FY 2016: Mt. Irish, Crescent N-4, Black Horse, White River, Black Bluff, S. Coal Valley, Murphy Gap, Worthington Mt., Cottonwood, Pine Creek, Coal Valley Lake, West Timber Mt., Needles, Lower Lake West and Dry Farm, for a total of 654,675 acres monitored

Stressors Affecting Rangeland Resources and Livestock Grazing

Please describe the stressors (e.g. climate change, vehicle traffic, invasive species, fire, etc.) that are currently affecting the resource, object, or value described above.

Stressors have not been fully identified for all Monument objects. It is anticipated that

these will be identified through the RMP process, and/or the science plan

Drought, invasive species, lack of rangeland improvements in some areas, and wildland fire are potential stressors to rangeland resources and livestock grazing in the Monument. Visitors and increased vehicle traffic have the potential to act as stressors in the future.

6 Summary of Performance Measure

Please provide a brief qualitative summary of the status of ROVs listed in the previous section. This summary and the below table are intended to provide a simple overview of the prior section—no additional information is being requested here.

Resources, Objects, and Values Status Summary Table		
Resource, Object, or Value	Status	Trend
Cultural Resources	21 sites monitored in FY16.	N/A
Natural Resources	Baseline inventories have not been completed.	N/A
Geologic Resources	Baseline inventories have not been completed.	N/A
Rangeland Resources and Livestock Grazing	654,675 acres monitored in allotments in FY16	N/A

7 Manager's Letter

Please include any information you feel is important and was not covered in other sections of this report. Also, please describe any opportunities in the upcoming year you would like to make known. For example, if the unit will be looking to restore a particular resource or area in the coming year, or will be applying for specific (non-BLM) funding sources like grants, these items could be discussed here.

The time following the Basin and Range National Monument designation has been exciting and busy, and we are looking forward to more accomplishments and collaboration with stakeholders in the future. The BLM is eagerly working through the Resource Management Plan process with maximum public involvement for the Monument. We hope to keep stakeholders and the general public engaged in the planning process with a large focus on the RMP in Fiscal Year 2017.

We are excited to begin monitoring some important aspects of the Monument in the coming year. Weather stations will be installed to obtain precipitation data, which is a key indicator for rangeland conditions. We are also planning to install traffic counters to collect information on how many visitors are coming to the Monument and which areas are receiving visitation.

Partnerships are vital to Basin and Range National Monument, and we look forward to more great endeavors with the Friends of Basin and Range. In addition, we continue to encourage entities, such as tribes and local, state, and federal agencies, to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the BLM and join us as Cooperating Agencies in development of the Resource Management Plan in the Basin and Range National Monument in the coming year.





**NATIONAL
CONSERVATION
LANDS**

Basin and Range

National Monument

**Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 237
1400 South Front Street
Caliente, NV 89008
Phone: 775-726-8100**

December 9, 2016

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