



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



# Nevada-wide Resource Management Plans *Modernization Project* August 2022



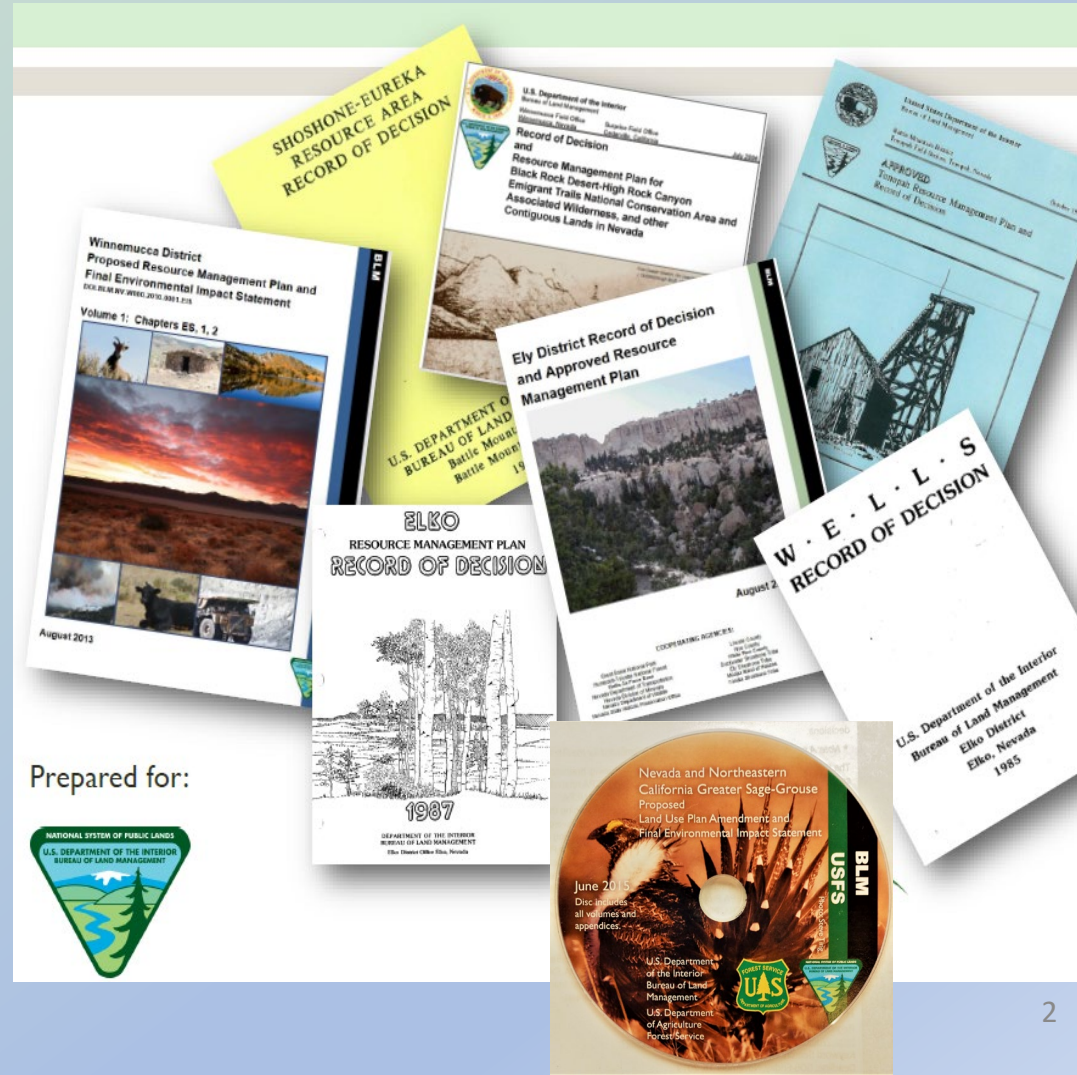
photo: Little Finland by Marc Sanchez, BLM

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**Jon K. Raby**, Nevada State Director



# Why Resource Management Plans?

- Primary tool guiding BLM management activities and decisions in support of the dual mandate of multiple use and sustained yield.
- Establishes goals and objectives for resource management and the measures needed to achieve them.
- Identifies lands that are open and available for certain uses, including any restrictions, and lands that are closed to certain uses (e.g., minerals, recreation, habitat).
- Provides comprehensive management direction for and/or allocates use of all resources.



Prepared for:





# Nevada-wide RMP by the Numbers

Nevada Office Area Name	Planning Area (acres)	Decision Area (Surface Lands ac.)	Current Resource Management Plan in Effect	Approval Date	RMP age in 2023 (years)
Stillwater Field Office	5,222,618	3,575,069	Carson City Consolidated RMP	2001	22
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<b>Total Acreage</b>	<b>68,490,572</b>	<b>48,736,009</b>	<b>RMPs average age, when the Revision launches in year 2023</b>		<b>22</b>

- Nevada-wide RMP *Decision Area* of 48.736 million acres covers 69% of State of Nevada (which is 70.766 million acres).
- Or, 71% of whole State is subject to an RMP by either Nevada, California, (in NW Washoe County), or Idaho (north Elko County) BLM State Offices.
- Nevada-wide RMP Revision would cover more land than any other RMP, including Alaska BS-WI (2021, 62.3 M ac. Plan Area, 13.5 M ac. Decision Area).



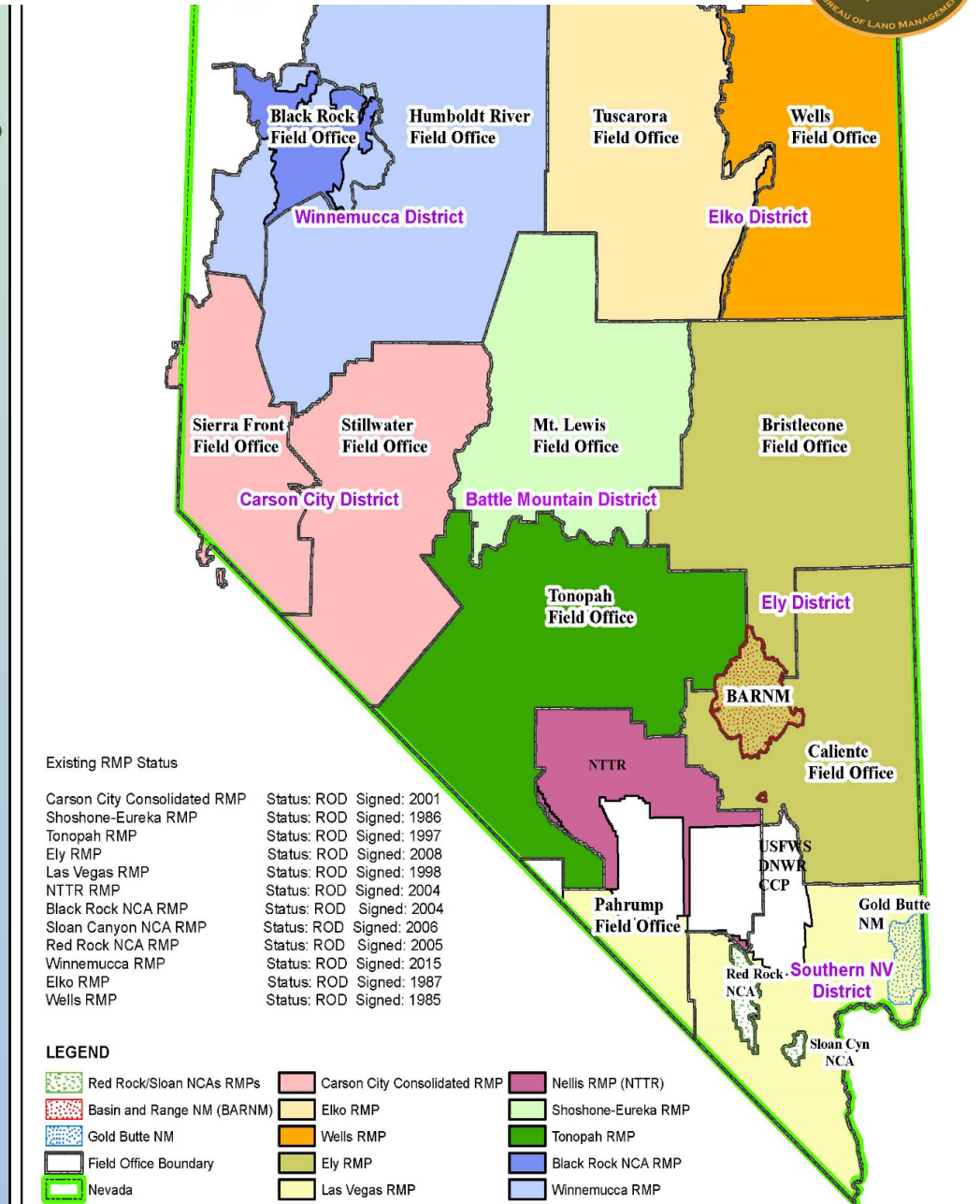
# Current Status of Nevada Resource Management Plans

- 12 Current RMPs in-effect.
- Ages range 6 to 36 years, **average 23+ years old**.
- **4 RMPs in progress were suspended, paused, or terminated** (see later *Head Start* slide).
- BLM lands comprise approximately 48 million acres or 63% of Nevada area.
- Photovoltaic barely existed for oldest RMPs.
- RMP/EIS preparation time typically 7+ years, with many kinds of delays.
- Trend for old Field Office RMPs to be revised, combined, integrated as a District Office RMP.
- RMP as a project usually a **once-in a-career experience for BLM staffers** at their office.
- Draft and Final RMPs found at BLM **public webpage** (search: **blm +Nevada +planning**).

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/planning-and-nepa/plans-in-development/nevada>

*"Plans are nothing; planning is everything."*  
—Dwight D. Eisenhower

Preliminary Concept subject to Revision





# RMPs Modernization *Project Overview*



- Concurrently revise or initiate all 14 RMPs across Nevada
- When completed this project will
  - Provide comprehensive management directions.
  - Define desired outcomes (goals, objectives), allocations, and management actions to achieve desired outcomes.
  - Address changes in social, environmental, and economic condition, and emerging issues since the existing plans were approved.



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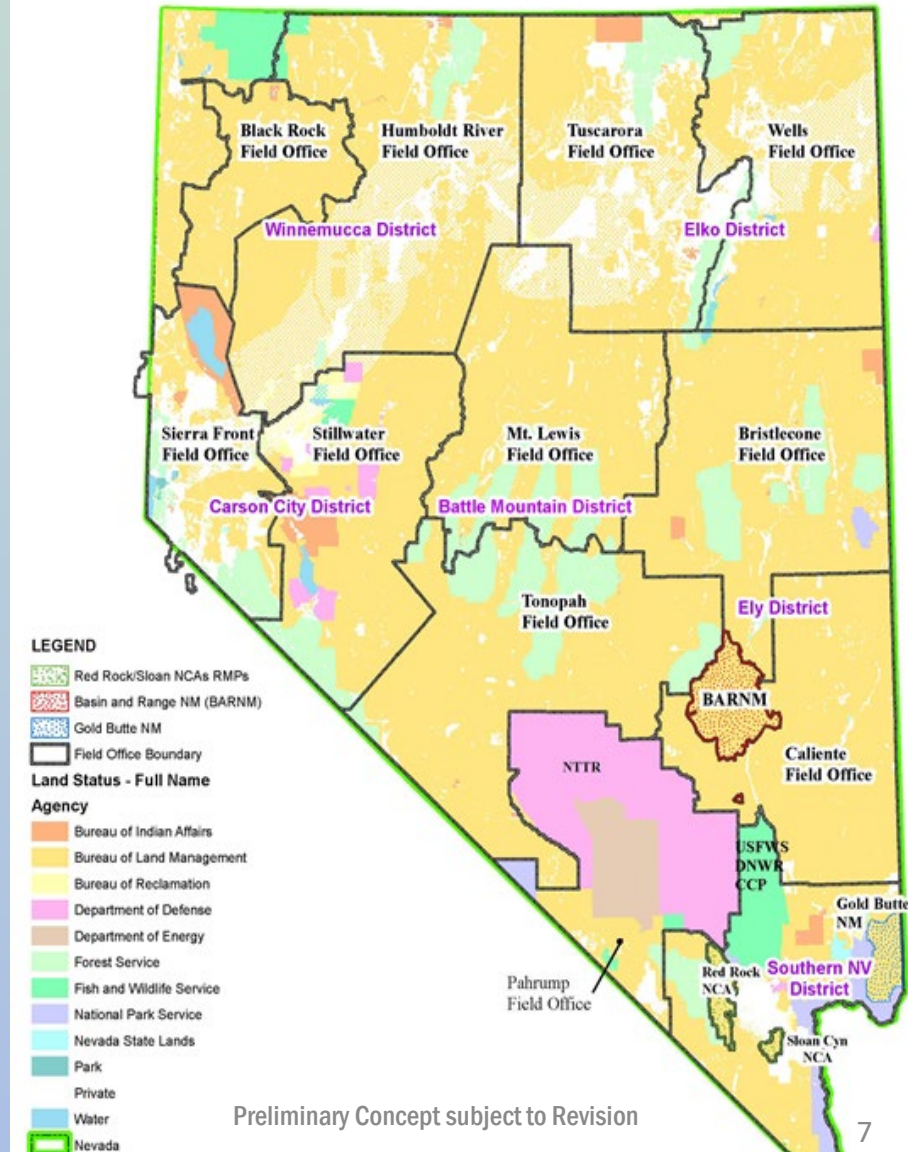


# Nevada-wide Planning Approach

- Effort led by **Nevada State Office** (in Reno), with focused, efficient involvement by District / Field Offices.
- Organizational structure:
  - **One, single planning area RMP/EIS**, with up to 18 Records of Decision (RoDs) at a field-office scale, allowing local customization with local knowledge and local ownership of plan content;
  - **Each Record of Decision becomes a separate RMP**, prepared and organized through a **single EIS** for efficiency of scale and schedule.
- Up to 18 separate RMP/RoDs would each cover:
  - **12 Field Offices** (some eventually could be combined into one RoD);
  - **2 National Monuments** (Gold Butte, Basin and Range);
  - **3 National Conservation Areas** (Red Rock Canyon, Sloan Canyon, Black Rock Desert...) [each Monument or NCA must be separate plan];
  - 1 Nevada Test & Training Range (NTTR, withdrawn to Air Force but still subject to a Plan per 1999 enabling Law).
- **Timeline Driver: BLM budget cycle with RMP funding sought as FY23 AWP budget as soon as April 2023...**
- **RMP Completion Goal: November 2025 as now proposed** for the Final RMP/EIS and its multiple RoDs at a field-office scale.

## Precedents for Multiple Records of Decision from one RMP/EIS

- National Monuments and NCAs each must have a separate RoD, per policy.
- Recent examples elsewhere with multiple RoDs derived from one RMP/EIS: Western Oregon RMP (2016), Colorado (Kremmling/Glenwood RMP, 2015), Idaho (Cottonwood/Coeur d'Alene RMP, 2010), and others.
- Nevada BLM proposal (2015) as 3 RMPs in Nevada, per each Resource Advisory Committee boundary that aligns with multiple Counties, as described in *Field Committee White Paper on Planning Unit Boundaries*.





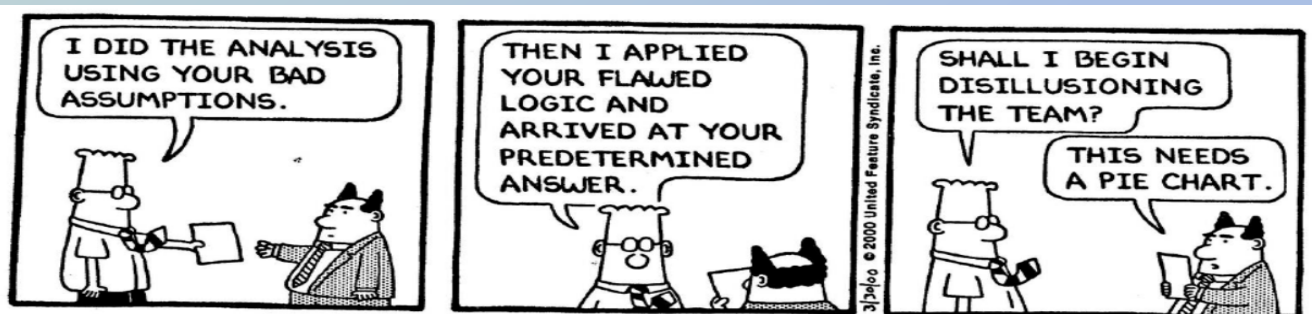
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# Nevada Issues to be Addressed

- Soils
- Air Water
- Vegetation
- Cultural Resources
- Tribal Interests
- Paleontology
- Visual Resource Management
- Special Status Species (Threatened, Endangered, Sensitive Status Species)
- Fish and Wildlife habitat
- Wild Horses and Burros
- Wilderness Character
- Wild & Scenic Rivers Eligibility
- Solar Energy
- Electric Transmission Corridors
- Wind Energy
- Livestock Grazing
- Recreation and Visitor Services
- Lands and Realty
- Land Disposals
- Mineral Resources
- Fluid Minerals Leasing (Oil, Gas, Geothermal)
- Special Designations (Monuments, National Conservation Areas)
- Socio-Economics
- Environmental Justice
- Cave and Karst Resources
- Fire Management
- Forest/Woodland Management
- Public Safety
- *Other issues from scoping...*





# Transmission Corridors as Prominent Issues

## Corridors to influence many planning issues

- **Designated Leasing Areas** and Rights of Way.
- Renewable energy projects with **project siting** to minimize resource conflicts.
- *Visual Resource Management* Classes; Dark Sky areas.
- Greater Sage-Grouse and other Wildlife habitat areas.
- Supersede *Western Solar Plan* (2012 Prog. EIS) that designated *Solar Energy Zones* at under-utilized sites.
- Integrate and guide upcoming multi-State RMP Amendments for WEC transmission corridor, solar project sitings, and/or DLAs.

## Additional Potential | Cross-Tie or SWIP-N

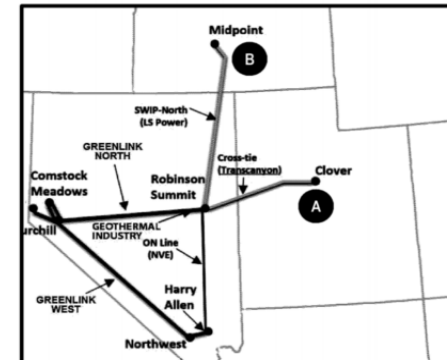
Possible connections to Greenlink North from outside companies complement proposed infrastructure enhancements and could provide additive import potential

Cross-Tie or SWIP-N, out-of-state projects being built by other organizations, would provide an additional 225 MW import capacity

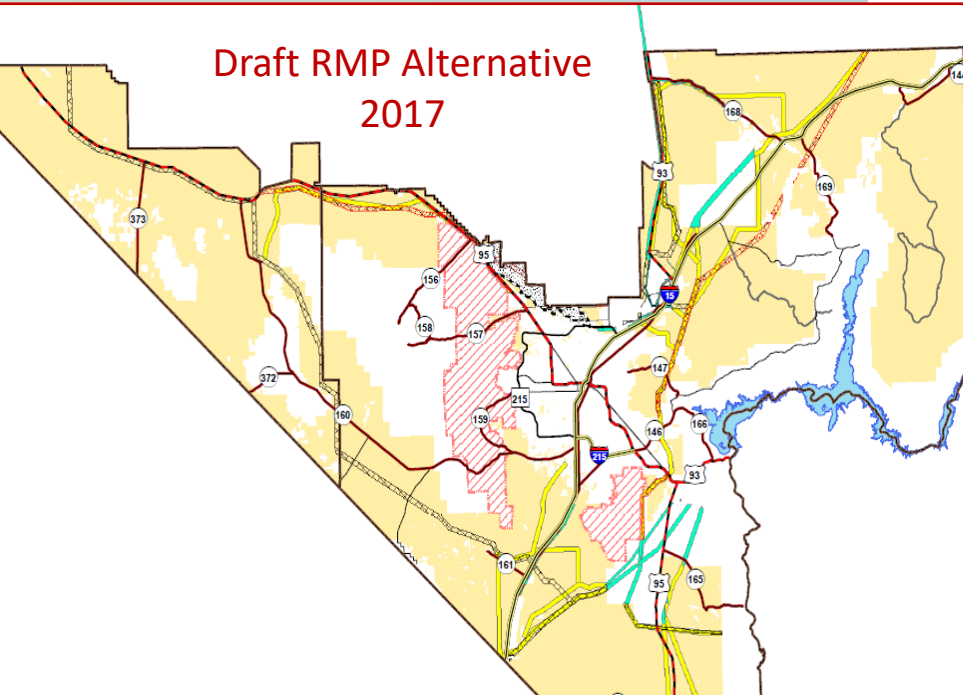
Both projects would provide additive benefits to the proposed infrastructure enhancements, including the ability to import and export renewable energy

**A** Cross-Tie is a 525 kV line between Utah and Nevada, expected to be in-service late 2024

**B** SWIP-N is a 525 kV line between Idaho and Nevada



## Draft RMP Alternative 2017



## Southern Nevada District Office

Las Vegas Field Office - Pahrump Field Office  
RMP Revision

Utility Corridor  
Alternative - 3  
Map 2.6.2.6 - 15

### Legend

- SNDO RMP Planning Area
- Lake Mead
- National Monument
- National Conservation Area
- Utility Corridor Alternative 3
- Corridor of Concern
- West Wide Energy Corridor
- Legislative Corridor
- 1998 RMP Designated Corridor
- Land Status
- Bureau of Land Management



# Participation in the Planning Process

- **Cooperating Agencies**

- Federal, State, or local government agencies, plus Native Tribes
- Disclose relevant information early in the analytical process.
- Ensure consistency amongst agencies and Tribes.
- Apply available technical expertise and staff support.
- Establish a mechanism for addressing intergovernmental issues.
- Review and comment on internal administrative drafts.

- **Public Stakeholder Groups**

- Participate in early public engagement.
- Provide scoping comments.
- Review draft and final documents.
- May formally protest if attain standing.

- **Tribal Consultations**

- Government-to-Government relations.
- Can occur up through Record of Decision.



# Near-Term Next Steps

Full RMP/EIS **contractor costs** estimated as **\$9+ million** for all tasks (a typical price range for complex, large RMPs), including baseline studies, inventories, and other Resource Reports.

- Completing evaluations of current RMPs.
- Designing early engagement approach for Situation Assessment, listening sessions. Determining what baseline data and information will be needed.
- Establishing the *Modernization Project* vision, goals, and objectives.
- Interdisciplinary Team (BLM staff) has been identified.
- RMP Preparation Plan (PrepPlan) submitted June 2022 to HQ for review / approval.
- Full funding not yet approved; some pre-plan funding from internal sources.
- Public outreach and agency inreach ongoing.
- National funding priorities for FY23 have emphasized planning for National Monuments and RMP amending to resolve recent legal settlements.
- Statements of support are growing in Nevada.

“You can always amend a big plan, but you can never expand a little one. I don’t believe in little plans. I believe in plans big enough to meet a situation which we can’t possibly foresee now.” ~*Harry S. Truman*

