

January 17, 2018

## Only Three Weeks Remain in BLM Resource Management Plan Comment Period

For the first time in close to 20 years, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is moving forward with a new regional plan for public land management. The Nevada BLM has opened a comment period to consider modifying Southern Nevada's Resource Management Plan (RMP), potentially impacting land use policy and real estate development in Southern Nevada for the next 20 years. The revised plan will serve as a blueprint guiding specific land-use decisions for 3.1 million acres of federal land in Clark County and the southern tip of Nye County for the foreseeable future. Given the economic importance of Clark County to the state of Nevada and the region, it is vital for there to be close coordination and cooperation between federal, state and local governments regarding land use planning. Potential land supply constraints translate into real implications for the region's economic growth.

Since the Resource Management Plan's last major update 20 years ago, the region's population has grown by 1 million people. Well over half of the 74,000 acres designated for disposal by the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA) have been sold or transferred. Proceeds from disposal sales under SNPLMA provide resources for capital improvements for local conservation plans, the Clark County School District, Southern Nevada Water Authority and other critical programs.

The RMP designates environmentally and culturally sensitive areas, areas for utility and transportation corridors and areas appropriate for disposal (transfer to a local government or private sale). This comment period represents the start of the first major revision of their overall resource management plan for Southern Nevada since the passage of the SNPLMA in 1998. Updated information on the revised draft Resource Management Plan is available [online](#).

### Why Is This Comment Period Important to Southern Nevada?

Right now, the revisions are focused on five specific topics: renewable energy development zones, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), lands with wilderness characteristics, land suitable for disposal and development and socioeconomic needs in Southern Nevada.

Many stakeholders have expressed concern that proposed administrative designations such as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Lands with Wilderness Characteristics and Areas of Ecological Importance threaten to preclude future economic and recreational activity through the lease, sale or permitted use of public lands. The draft RMP designates 278,000 additional acres of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, which could prevent development of infrastructure such as roads, utilities and other infrastructure to support transportation corridors integral to our state's economy, such as the supplemental airport planned for Ivanpah and the future I-11.

For more information on the comment period, and how to participate, please contact Brownstein Policy Advisor [Matt Walker](#) or Brownstein Senior Policy Advisor [Jodi Stephens](#).

A single issue can involve various government agencies, departments and other bodies, and require multiple channels and interaction at several levels to advance. When the actions or decisions of government impact your business, [Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck](#) navigates our clients through the maze of politics and policy. Our firm was founded on the belief that government relations and legal representation go hand-in-hand and that this

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**Alisa Nave-Worth**

Shareholder

[anave-worth@bhfs.com](mailto:anave-worth@bhfs.com)

702.464.7061

**Jodi Stephens**

Senior Policy Advisor

[jstephens@bhfs.com](mailto:jstephens@bhfs.com)

775.398.3809

**Matt Walker**

Policy Advisor

[mwalker@bhfs.com](mailto:mwalker@bhfs.com)

702.464.7071

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