Lander County



Policy Plan for Federally Administered Lands

2005

Lander County 2005 Policy Plan for Federally Administered Lands

Prepared by:

The Lander County Public Land Use Advisory Planning Commission

Ray Salisbury, Chair

Ray Williams, Jr.

Louis Lani

Philip Williams

Franklin B. Whitman

Adopted by the Lander County Public Land Use Advisory Planning Commission: May 2, 2005

> Adopted by the Lander County Planning Commission: June 8, 2005

Adopted by the Lander County Board of County Commissioners: July 25, 2005

Lander County 2005 Policy Plan for Federally Administered Lands

Table of Contents

I.	BACKGROUND	Page 1
н.	PURPOSE	1
Ш.	PROCESS	3
IV.	HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	3
V.	PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS	4
	ClimateLand Ownership	4 5
VI.	SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS	5
	Population Employment Federal and State Land-based Payments to Lander County	5 7 11
VII.	RECREATION	14
	Major Recreation Areas/Sites in the County Notable Trends in Outdoor Recreation in Lander County	15 15
VIII.	WILDERNESS	18
IX.	AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION	18
Χ.	RANGE AND GRAZING MANAGEMENT	19
XI.	MINING	23
XII.	PURPOSE OF THE POLICY STATEMENTS	23

		Page
<u>POLIC</u>		
1.	Plan Implementation, Agency Coordination and Local Voice	24
2.	Management of Federally Administered Lands	25
3.	Federal Land Transactions	25
4.	Custom and Culture	29
5.	Community Stability	29
6.	Public Safety	30
7.	Agriculture and Livestock Production	30
8.	Air Quality	32
9.	Cultural Resources	32
7. 10.	Forestry and Forest Products	33
10.	Water Resources	33
11. 12.		
	Wetlands, Riparian Habitat and Waters of the United States	34
13.	Mineral Resources	34
14.	Public Access	36
15.	Recreation and Open Space	37
16.	Wilderness	41
17.	Wild Horses	42
18.	Wildlife	43
19.	Fire Management	44
20.	Military Operations	45
21.	Energy Production	45
22.	Habitat Conservation Planning	46
23.	Off Highway Vehicles (OHVs)	46
LIST O	F TABLES	
1.	Lander County Land Status	5
2.	Population	6
3.	Age Distribution	6
4.	Race/Ethnic Origin	7
5.	Educational Attainment	7
6.	Agricultural Sector	8
7.	High Wage Industries	8
7. 8.	Number of Businesses by Company Size	9
		9
9.	Largest Employers	-
10.	Labor Force	10
11.	Occupations	10
12.	Wages	11
13.	Federal Land Payments	12
14.	State Land Payments	13
15.	Recreation Profile for Lander County	15
16.	Recreation Sites on Federally Administered Lands	16
17.	Recreational Activities: Planning Region VI	17
18.	Agriculture and Livestock	18
19.	Major Crops and Livestock Production	19
20.	Summary of Grazing Authorization by BLM and US Forest Service	20
21.	US Forest Service AUMs	21
22.	BLM AUMs	22
Appen	dix A: Public Lands Identified for Disposal	
	dix B: BLM and US Forest Service Allotment Maps	

I. BACKGROUND

The initial Lander County Policy Plan for Federally Administered Lands (Plan) was developed between 1983 and 1984 as part of a state-wide effort resulting from the passage of Senate Bill 40. Under SB40, the Nevada Division of State Lands (NDSL) was directed by the 1983 State Legislature to:

"Prepare, in cooperation with appropriate state agencies and local governments throughout the state, plans or policy statements concerning the use of lands in Nevada which are under federal management."

NDSL, in concert with local governments, developed a public lands policy plan for each of Nevada's 17 counties as well as a statewide element. The Plan was adopted on October 4, 1984 by the Lander County Board of Commissioners (LCBC). The LCBC working under advisement of the Lander Public Land Use Advisory Planning Commission (PLUAPC) adopted an update to the Plan on November 8, 1999. The 2005 Plan represents a review of existing and emerging public lands issues that are of importance to Lander County as it works with federal agencies under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other public processes.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Plan is to:

- Detail Lander County's vision and strong policy voice concerning public lands.
- Define Lander County's public land-related issues and needs.
- Provide locally developed land management policies that enable the federal land management agencies to better understand and respond in a positive fashion to the concerns and needs of Lander County in a collaborative process.
- Increase the role Lander County has in determining the management of the federally administered lands.
- Provide an opportunity to positively address federal land use management issues directly and thereby offer a proactive alternative rather than an after-the-fact response.
- Encourage public comment and involvement.

Within the Plan are descriptions of issues and opportunities relating to public lands and how best to work collaboratively with the federal planning partners, most notably Bureau of Land Management (BLM), US Forest Service (USFS), Reclamation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

- The Plan enables the federal land management agencies to better understand and respond to the concerns and needs of Lander County.
- Planning, effective communication and coordination by Nevada's governments, in concert with its citizens, can establish a set of policies for the proper use of these lands and to take advantage of the consistency language in Section 202(c)(9) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA).
- Section 202(c)(9) governs BLM Planning and directs the BLM to give consideration to appropriate state, local, and tribal lands in the development of land use plans for federally administered lands.
- The BLM is to provide for meaningful public involvement of state and local government officials in the development of land use plans, regulations and decisions for federally administered lands.
- The BLM will review each Resource Management Plan (RMP) and proposed federal action for consistency with the Lander County Policy Plan for Federally Administered Lands and will attempt to make the RMPs and proposed actions compatible with the Plan to the extent that the Secretary of the Interior finds consistent with federal law and the purpose of FLPMA.

Forest Service Regulations for Land Management Planning and for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires that the Forest Service determine the consistency of any project proposal with state and/or local laws and plans.

The agency is required to describe any inconsistencies and the extent to which the agency would reconcile its proposal with the state/local laws and plans. This consistency review is also provided for by the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR 1506.2(d)) developed to implement NEPA.

III. PROCESS

The Plan revision involved a review of the 1999 plan to determine changes and additions needed to reflect current conditions and needs. The following is a summary of the process to adopt the 2005 Plan:

- The PLUAPC reviewed the 1999 Plan with the assistance of the Nevada Division of State Lands in late 2004 and early 2005 during publicly noticed meetings in Austin and Battle Mountain.
- The Draft Plan was presented at the March 7, 2005 PLUAPC meeting in Battle Mountain. The PLUAPC held an official public review meeting on May 2, 2005 in Austin and recommended approval of the Plan. The Lander County Planning Commission reviewed the Draft Plan on June 8, 2005.
- The Planning Commission held a public hearing on June 8, 2005 and recommended approval of the Plan to the Lander County Board of Commissioners.
- The Lander County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing on July 25, 2005 and adopted the 2005 Plan.

IV. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The earliest evidence of human occupation in the Great Basin began about 11,500 years ago. Lander County was apparently the home of the Western Shoshone people, although there is some evidence that the Northern Paiute people used the western area of the county. One description by Ethnographer Julian H. Steward in 1938 indicated the Western Shoshone people inhabited the fertile lowlands along the Humboldt River and the Reese River at the time of contact with the early explorers and emigrants. There is evidence that Native Americans used essentially the entire county for hunting and gathering. (Basin-Plateau Aboriginal Sociopolitical Groups. *Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin 120, Washington.* Reprinted: University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City, 1970). Additional historical information can be obtained by reviewing the ledgers of Colonel Frederick W. Lander.

Lander County was named in honor of Colonel Frederick W. Lander, chief engineer for a federal wagon route, the Central Overland Route, which ran from Fort Kearney to Honey Lake through South Pass. Colonel Lander had been appointed Special Indian Agent and through his efforts a truce had been arranged in 1860 with the Paiute Indian, Young Winnemucca, who had vowed to fight the whites for trespassing onto Paiute's land. Subsequently, Brigadier General Lander fought in the Civil War and was killed on March 2, 1862 at Paw Paw, Virginia.

The Humboldt River served as the only natural travel course across what is presently Nevada and is the only major river in Nevada which is wholly contained within the state, having its headwaters in eastern Elko County and its terminus in the Humboldt Sink in Churchill County. The river corridor funneled thousands of emigrants en route to California during 1841-1870. Another major feature in the county is the Reese River and the Reese River Valley which runs from the southern end of the county north to the Humboldt River. The Reese River was discovered by John Reese in 1854.

Lander County was created on December 19, 1862 out of Esmeralda County, one of the original nine counties in the Nevada Territory (Territory was created on November 25, 1861). Once created, Lander County covered nearly one-third of the state's area. Later, in 1869, Elko and White Pine counties were established from the original Lander County. In 1873 Eureka County was formed out of the eastern half of what remained of Lander County. Jacobsville (Jacob's Springs) was founded on the banks of the Reese River in 1859 and became the county seat. Jacobsville began as an overland stage and mail station and later a Pony Express stop in 1860. Austin, located six miles east was established on May 2, 1862 following discovery of silver. This set off the "rush to Reese" or to the Reese River Valley. The county seat remained in Austin until 1979 when it moved to Battle Mountain.

V. PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Lander County is Nevada's ninth largest county with 5,621 square miles (3,597,440 acres), accounting for approximately 5.1 percent of the states surface area. Elevations vary from 4,500 feet in the valleys to more than 10,000 feet on the highest peaks. The County stretches across two of Nevada's 14 major watersheds. The northern part of the county drains into the Humboldt River Basin (Watershed Unit #4), and includes the Reese River area which occasionally (during extremely wet years) drains into the Humboldt River. The remaining portion of the county is within the Central Region Watershed (Watershed Unit #10).

The Humboldt River is the County's most important source of water, snaking through the northern part of the County. The Reese River Valley running from south to north in the county is also an important natural feature. The topography consists of a series of wide valleys, some supporting agriculture where there are sufficient water and suitable soil. These valleys are bordered by mountain ranges, which generally follow a north-south pattern.

Climate

Lander County's annual precipitation is influenced by elevation and averages 12.26 inches. March to May is the wettest period with one and one-half inch of precipitation per month. August and September are the driest months, averaging 0.47 inches per month. Temperature, on the average, ranges between 18 and 40 in January to a range from 53 to 87 degrees in July.

Land Ownership

Of Lander County's 3,597,440 acres, 83.2+/- percent are administrated by the federal government. The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest is administered by the U.S. Forest Service. Most of the remaining lands are administrated by the Bureau of Land Management. The Elko Field Office administers land in the northern part of the County (generally north of I-80) while the Battle Mountain Field Office has responsibility for the other BLM administered lands in Lander County. The BLM and the County have identified many federal land parcels needed to meet county or community needs. Additional lands have been identified that would enhance economic development, if made available for purchase by the private sector. Appendix A describes the specific BLM parcels identified by the county for acquisition.

TABLE 1
Lander County Land Status

Lander County Land Status					
Land Area	Acres	Land Area in Percent			
Lands Administered by Federal Agencies BLM Forest Service Reclamation	2,993,252 2,667,467 294,946 30,150	83.2 74.1 8.2 0.8			
Tribal	689	0.02			
State	8,548	0.1			
Local Government/Private	594,951	16.5			
Total Acres	3,597,440	100.0			

Source: BLM 2005

VI. SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Population

According to the State Demographer, Lander County's 2004 total population estimate was 5,357 people, while the Census 2004 estimate is 5,049 people. The county's population was generally concentrated in three unincorporated towns including:

- Battle Mountain 2,623 (54% of county total)
- Austin 271 (5%)
- Kingston 271 (5%) (The same figure for each town is a coincidence.)

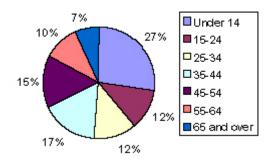
TABLE 2
Population

. opanation				
Year	Population			
2004	5,357			
2003	5,277			
2002	5,547			
2001	5,761			
2000	5,794			

Source: Sierra Pacific/State of Nevada Demographer

Austin and Battle Mountain have seen a decline in population since 1997 when the populations were 420 and 4,500 respectively. Kingston saw an increase of 21 people since 1997. Between 1990 and 1997 County growth averaged 1.5 percent per year. The population in 1950 was 1,580 growing to 7,030 in 1997, with the increase in mining activity mostly responsible for the growth. The downturn in gold prices since 1997 accounted for a majority of the population loss. Recently as gold prices have rebounded, the population is again increasing, typical of Nevada's rural boom and bust cycles. Lander County's average age of its population was estimated in 2003 at 33.1 years as compared to 35.4 years for the Nevada average.

TABLE 3
Age Distribution



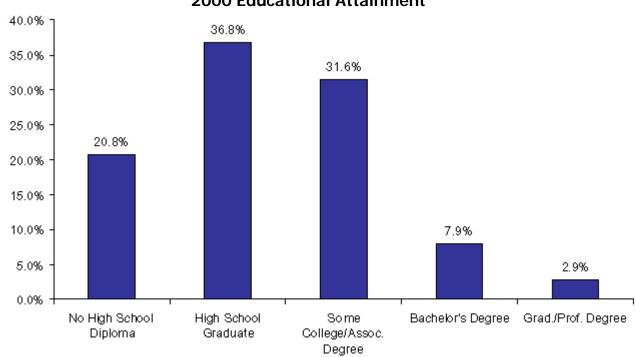
Source: Sierra Pacific/U.S Census Bureau, 2000 Census

TABLE 4
Race/Ethnic Origin

rtass, zumns erigin					
	Am. Indian/ Nat. Alaskan	Asian/ Pacific Isl.	Black	White	Hispanic
2000	231	22	12	4,891	1,073
% of Total	4.0	0.4	0.2	84.4	18.5

Source: Sierra Pacific/U.S Census Bureau, 2000 Census

TABLE 5 2000 Educational Attainment



Source: U.S Census Bureau, 2000 Census

Employment

In 2000, the County's total-covered employment (i.e., workers covered under state and federal unemployment insurance programs) were 2,943 persons (excluding agriculture). According to the Nevada Division of Minerals (NDOM), "Major Mines of Nevada 2003", six

mining companies are operating a total of 39 mines which employ 509 directly related full time employees. In 2003, 317,842 tons of Barite, 1,083,631 ounces of gold, and 3,199 ounces of silver were produced in Lander County. Turquoise has also been mined, but is a minimal aspect of the overall mining portfolio. Farming and agriculture service industry jobs comprised approximately 3.6% of total employment within the county, down significantly from agriculture's share of 13.8% in 1970. The principal reason for the decline is the rapid growth of mining, while agriculture grew only slightly.

Mining dominates the county economy as to jobs and payrolls. Lander County's mines produced some \$257.31 million in total gross proceeds. This accounted for 8.3% of Nevada's \$2.7 billion in precious metals and \$3.0 billion in total mineral proceeds in 2003. This makes Lander County the fourth most important mining county behind Eureka, Humboldt, and Nye Counties regarding valuation of mining production. Mining jobs commanded the highest annual average wage at \$63,059 (state average) per worker.

TABLE 6
Agricultural Sector

Year	Employment (number)	Total Income (dollars)
2001	180	2,949,000
2002	163	4,915,000

Source: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis Regional Economic Information System

Governmental entities employed a total of 595 people in 2002. The federal agencies in Lander County provided approximately 93 full-time and part-time employees in 2002 with a total economic impact of \$4.4 million. Federal salaries' average \$39,722 annually. The military employed 10 people while state government employed 54 people and local government employed 438 people.

TABLE 7
High Wage Industries

1.1.3.1.1.4.30						
Industry	Annual Mean Wage	Annual Entry Wage	Annual Experience Level Wage			
Metal Ore Mining	\$50,021	\$41,868	\$54,098			
Elementary and Secondary Schools	\$43,596	\$25,123	\$52,833			

Source: Sierra Pacific/Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR)

TABLE 8
Number of Businesses by Company Size

Company Size	No. of Companies	Total Employees
250 to 499 employees	2	800
100 to 249 employees	2	275
50 to 99 employees	5	400
20 to 49 employees	9	277
10 to 19 employees	14	178

Source: Sierra Pacific/Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR), Battle Mountain Chamber of Commerce, 2005

TABLE 9 Largest Employers

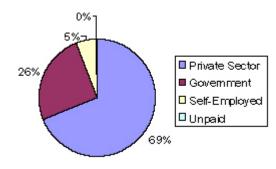
Employer	City	Industry	Number of Employees
Cortez Gold Mines	Crescent Valley	Gold Ore Mining	250 – 499
Newmont Gold		Gold Ore Mining	250 – 499
Lander County	Battle Mountain	Executive & Legislative Offices Combined	100 – 249
Lander County School District	Battle Mountain	Elementary & Secondary Schools	100 – 249
M-I Holdings LLC	Battle Mountain	Chemical/Fertilizer Mineral Mining	50 – 99
Battle Mountain General Hospital	Battle Mountain	General Medical & Surgical Hospitals	50 – 99
Etcheverry Foodtown	Battle Mountain	Supermarkets & Other Grocery Stores	50 – 99
Bureau of Land Management		Administrative of Conservation Programs	50 – 99
Colt Broadway Flying J	Battle Mountain	Gasoline Stations w/ Convenience Stores	50 – 99
John Davis Trucking Company	Battle Mountain	Other Specialized Trucking, Local	50 – 99
Owl Club	Battle Mountain	Entertainment/Food	50 – 99
Small Mine Development	Battle Mountain	Mining Services	50 - 99

Source: Sierra Pacific/Nevada Department of Employment, Training, and Rehabilitation, Battle Mountain Chamber of Commerce 2005

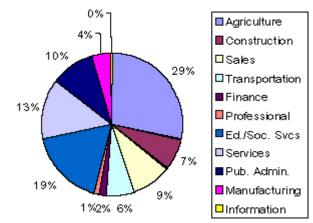
TABLE 10 Labor Force

Year	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate (Local)
2004	1,971	1,872	99	5.0%
2003	2,020	1,880	140	7.1%
2002	2,220	2,040	180	8.3%
2001	2,120	2,230	160	7.6%
2000	1,960	2,060	170	7.7%

Source: Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR).



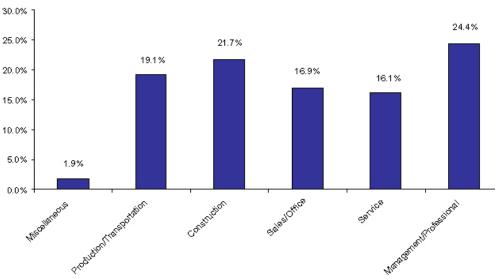
Source: Sierra Pacific/U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, Total Workers = 2,528



Source: Sierra Pacific/U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, Total Workers = 2,528

TABLE 11 Occupations

Lander County 2005 Policy Plan for Federally Administered Lands Page 11



Source: Sierra Pacific/U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, Total workers = 2,528

Commuting Trends

According the 2000 U.S. Census, approximately 158 or 7.6% of the jobs are held by people who commute into Lander County from other areas of Nevada, with the majority coming from Humboldt County (2.6%) and Elko County (2.0%). An additional 3.0% come from other areas of Nevada including Churchill, Clark, Eureka, Lyon, and Nye Counties. There is a large influx of military contractors commuting from Churchill County.

In addition, approximately 30 or 1.4% of the jobs within Lander County are held by people who commute from other areas of the country, with the majority from Louisiana (0.7%). The remaining 0.7% comes from Idaho and Utah.

TABLE 12 Wages

Job Title	Mean Wage	25%	Median Range
General & Operations Managers	\$38.52	\$18.60	\$32.60
Transportation, Storage, & Distribution Managers	\$28.76	\$26.37	\$28.69
Engineers	\$35.93	\$31.65	\$35.06
Janitors & Cleaners except maids & housekeeping cleaners	\$16.09	\$11.23	\$16.71
Supervisors, Office & Administrative Support Workers	\$21.09	\$11.21	\$15.45
Secretaries & Administrative Assistants	\$16.46	\$11.69	\$14.15
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor Trailer	\$17.68	\$13.62	\$18.58
Material Moving Workers	\$15.18	\$12.84	\$14.74

Source: Sierra Pacific/Department of Training, Rehabilitation and Employment (DETR) May 2004 Note: Service industry wages have an hourly wage range typically between \$6 and \$18.

Federal and State Land-based Payments to Lander County

The federal and state governments make payments to local governments in Nevada. Payments are to provide services such as fire and police protection, search and rescue operations, natural resource conservation/preservation, and support of public schools and road construction.

TABLE 13 Federal Land Payments

r cacrar Earla r ayments					
Title	Agency Making Payments	Types of Receipts	Deposition of Receipts		
Act of 5/23/08; Dept of Agriculture Appropriation Act; 35 Stat. 251; 16 U.S.C. 500, PL 94- 588	US Forest Service	Moneys received from each National Forest	65% to Treasury 25% of gross to counties 10% to Forest Roads for appropriation		
Act of 2/25/20 (Section 35) Mineral Lands Leasing Act; 41 Stat. 450; 30 U.S.C. 191	Bureau of Land Management	Moneys received from mineral leasing	50% to States 40% to Bureau of Reclamation 10% to Federal Treasury		
Federal Power Act (Section 17); 41 Stat. 1072; 16 U.S.C. 810	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	Occupancy and use of National Forests and Public Lands	50% to Bureau of Reclamation 37.5% to US Treasury 12.5% to States for counties		
Taylor Grazing Act (Section 10); 43 U.S.C. 315)	Bureau of Land Management	Proceeds from Section 3 grazing receipts Receipts from Section 15 grazing receipts	50% to Range Improvement Fund 37.5% to U.S. Treasury 12.5% to States for Counties		
Act of 6/22/56 to amend Act of 6/22/48; 70 stat. 328; 61 U.S.C. 577g-1	US Forest Service	Percentage of their appraised value	3/4 of 1% of appraised value paid in addition to act of 5/23/08		
Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands (Section 6); 61 Stat. 95; 30 U.S.C. 355	Bureau of Land Management US Forest Service	Moneys received from mineral leasing	50% to States 40% to Bureau of Reclamation 10% to US Treasury		
Material Disposal Act (Section 3) 61 Stat. 681	Bureau of Land Management US Forest Service	Net revenues from sale of land and materials	Varies depending upon type of receipt and agency		
Santini-Burton Act P.L. 96-586	Bureau of Land Management	Revenues from the sale of BLM Lands in Clark County	85% for Federal purchase of lands 10% to Clark County or City of Las Vegas 5% to Nevada State Government		
PILT, PL 94-565	Bureau of Land Management	Appropriated by Congress	100% to Counties		

Nuclear Waste Policy Act	Department of Energy	Appropriated by Congress	100% to Counties
Refuge Revenue Sharing Act, as amended; 92 Stat. 1321; 16 U.S.C. 715s(c)(2)	US Fish and Wildlife Service	Revenues from sale of timber, grazing, and minerals on reserve area lands and sale of carcasses of certain animals	25% of net receipts to counties 75% to Revenue Sharing Fund
Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998	Bureau of Land Management	Revenue from the sale of BLM lands in Clark County	85% for Federal purchase of lands, recreation s, wildlife, trails & operation cost 10% to Southern Nevada Water Authority 5% to State
BACA Bill (Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act of 2000)	Bureau of Land Management	Revenue from sales of BLM lands statewide.	4% to Nevada for educational purposes and for construction of roads. 96% to the Federal Land Disposal Account. (Of the funds in this account, 80% utilized for acquisition of inholdings and other sensitive lands. 20% utilized for administrative purposes including appraisals.)

Source: The University of Nevada Report entitled "Federal and State Land-Based Payments," Technical Report UCED 95-02, dated December 1995. Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 and BLM 2005

TABLE 14 State Land Payments

Provisions of Law	Agency Making Payments	Types of Receipts	Disposition of Receipts
NRS 322.003	Nevada State Lands	Income from the lease of State Lands, buoys & piers'	State General Fund
NRS 407.0762	Nevada Division of Parks	Revenues from user fees, concessions and grazing fees	Special "State Parks" account to be used only to repair and maintain State Parks

Source: The University of Nevada Report entitled "Federal and State Land-Based Payments," Technical Report UCED 95-02, dated December 1995

Federal Revenue Sharing Programs - The following are specific programs associated with federally administered lands that may provide funding for Lander County

 Mineral Lease Act of 1920 specifically provides revenues collected from gas, oil, geothermal and all leasable minerals such as sand and gravel. (Locatable minerals such as gold are not included).

Of the gross revenues, 40% goes to the Reclamation Fund, 10% is retained by the federal government for administrative purposes, and 50% to states.

A total of \$5,062,509 was sent to the state in fiscal year 2003. Lander County did not receive any funds specifically identified from this program.

 The Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 established grazing districts and created a source of funds which are returned to the state, counties and grazing districts. The Act allows the State Legislature discretion in the allocation 12.5% from Section 3 lands and 50 % from section 15 lands, if it benefits the county where the revenue was generated. The State and County received the following funds:

<u>State</u>		Lander Co	<u>unty</u>
\$255, 392	(2001)	\$21,190	(2001)
\$260,141	(2002)	\$23,171	(2002)
\$220,297	(2003)	\$17,033	(2003)
Source: US Dep	artment of Agriculture 2003		

Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) began in 1976. "PILT" payments were designed to supplement other federal land receipts sharing payments. The payments are made to local government units and can be used for any government purpose. The State and County received the following funds:

<u>State</u>	Lander Co	<u>unty</u>
\$7.6 million (2000)	\$324,916	(2000)
\$10.9 million (2001)	\$424,277	(2001)
\$11.5 million (2002)	\$445,399	(2002)
\$13.1 million (2003)	\$454,824	(2003)
\$13.5 million (2004)	\$467,597	(2004)
Source: National Association of Counties 2004		

The US Department of Agriculture Appropriations Act of 1908 directed 25 % of gross receipts from National Forest Service system lands to be returned to the state of origin. The Act earmarked funds for schools and roads at the county level.

<u>State</u>		Lander Co	<u>unty</u>
\$295,414	(2000)		
\$390,609	(2004)	\$31,517	(2004)
Source: US Dep	partment of Agriculture 2004		

• The US Department of Education, Title 8, Public Law 103-382 provides for payments to the local school districts as "Impact Aid" based on the premise that federal civilian and military activities bring an additional burden upon the public school districts. The law provides for payments based on the number of children of federal employees and contract employees doing work for the federal government, native American children attending public schools, and for children of employees of private

businesses doing work on federal lands (e.g., mining companies). The payments depend upon the number of qualifying children attending school. The State and County received the following funds:

<u>State</u> <u>Lander County</u> \$3.04 million (2003) \$256,517 (2003)

Source: US Department of Education 2004

VII. RECREATION

Recreational activities play an important part in the lifestyle and economy of Lander County. The 2003 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) developed by the Nevada Division of State Parks provided an outdoor recreation profile for the State but did not break it down to a county specific level.

Recreational use is becoming more important to the economy of Lander County, particularly in light of the mining slowdown. The County is looking for opportunities to increase tourism and general recreation as a way to offset some of the economic and job losses due to the reduction in mining activity.

TABLE 15
Recreation Profile for Lander County

Redisation For Earlast County			
Recreation Facility	Number	Recreation Facility	Number
Playfields	8	Outdoor Swimming Pools	2
City and County Parks	7	State Parks	0
Tennis Courts	2	Golf Courses	1
Playgrounds	*	Developed Picnic Areas	3
Developed Campgrounds	7	Primitive Picnic Areas	Numerous County wide
Primitive Campgrounds (BLM & FS)	Numerous County wide	Motorized and Non-motorized Trails	500+ miles
Historic Sites	11	Mountain Bike Trails	100+ miles

^{*} Playgrounds are included in the total for parks

Source: BLM, USFS, Lander County 2005

Opportunities for water-based recreation such as boating, fishing, water-skiing, swimming (not pools) etc:

Willow Creek Pond

Kingston Creek and Groves Lake

Willow Creek Rock Creek

Humboldt River Big Creek, Birch Creek

Major Recreation Areas/Sites in the County:

Hickison Petroglyph Campground
Kingston Canyon Recreation Area

Bob Scott Campground
Lewis Canyon

Mill Creek Recreational Area Toiyabe Crest Trail Spencer Hot Springs Dry Canyon Trail

Notable Trends in Outdoor Recreation in Lander County:

Lander County residents' recreational activities include hunting, fishing, wild horse viewing, birding, camping and many others. Golfing has become very popular with the Battle Mountain golf course. The interest in mountain biking and organized horse trail rides is increasing. Participation in the Pony Express 100, an organized automobile road race between Battle Mountain and Austin on Highway 305 has increased each year. An OHV Travel Guide has been developed to advertise the County's many miles of roads and trails.

Although recreation use figures have not been collected since the mid 1980's because of budget constraints, the county does provide outstanding opportunities for a variety of outdoor activities for both local residents and visitors. Fishing, hunting, along with primitive camping/picnicking and driving for pleasure are major activities enjoyed, along with rockhounding, off-highway vehicle racing, off-highway recreational vehicle use, mountain biking and hiking/walking. Table 16 describes the existing developed recreation sites in the county and estimated use for 1996. Table 17 describes recreation activity in the Nevada State Division of Parks' Planning Area VI which covers Humboldt, Lander, and Pershing Counties.

TABLE 16
Recreational Sites on Federally Administered Lands

Site	Primary Site Type	Visitor Days for 1996	Agency
Antelope Range	Interpretative Center	300	BLM
Hickison Petroglyph Recreation	Campground	10,500	BLM
Mill Creek Recreation	Campground	9,000	BLM
Hickison Petroglyph Interpretative Trail	Trailhead	5,500	BLM
Roberts Mountain	Intensive Use Area	275	BLM
Simpson Park	Intensive Use Area	225	BLM
Smith Creek Dry Lake Bed	Specialized Sport Site	500	BLM

			raye 17
Spencer Hot Springs	Intensive Use Area	3,500	BLM
The Point: PX Trail	Historical	225	BLM
Tonkin Springs	Picnic Area	150	BLM
BLM - Dispersed Use (Lander, Nye & Eureka Counties)	Dispersed Area	475,000	BLM
Bob Scott Recreation	Campground	3,300	USFS
Kingston Canyon Recreation (includes Groves Lake, Campground, Toiyabe Crest Trail)	Campground	11,000	USFS and NDOW
Big Creek Recreation	Campground	3,000	USFS
Forest Service Dispersed use - Lander, Nye & Eureka Counties	Dispersed Area	60,000	USFS

Source: BLM/USFS/Lander PLUAPC/LEDA 2005

TABLE 17
Recreational Activities: Planning Region VI
(Humboldt, Lander and Pershing Counties)

Recreation Activity	Percentage
Lake Fishing	52
Stream Fishing	49
X-Country Skiing	3
Snowplay	29
Snowmobiling	8
Game Hunting	33
Bird Hunting	32
Pleasure Driving	78
Off-Road Vehicles	52
Exploring	49
Picnicking	77
Tent Camping	38
Vehicle Camping	46

Backpacking	15
Hiking/walking	69
Horseback riding	19

Source: 1995 and 2003 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

VIII. WILDERNESS

There is no Congressionally designated Wilderness area in Lander County. The BLM has recommended Wilderness designation for one area in the county, the Desatoya Mountains. Congress has not acted on any BLM recommendation. BLM Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) within Lander County include:

BLM WSA	WSA Number	County BLM	1 Recommendation	<u>Acres</u>
1) Augusta Mountai	ns NV-030-108	Lander/Pershing	Non-wilderness	89,372
2) Simpson Park	NV-060-428	Lander/Eureka	Non-wilderness	49,670
3) Desatoya Mounta	ins NV-030-110	Lander/Churchill	Wilderness	43,180
•	NV-030-110		Non-Wilderness	8,222
TOTAL				190,444

IX. AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

Agriculture and livestock production in Lander County is an important activity that helps meet the needs of Nevada citizens. Agriculture is particularly important when mining activity is slowed. Agriculture helps carry the county through these periods of economic downturns. According to the 2002 Census of Agriculture from the National Agricultural Statistics Services, the following is true for Lander County:

TABLE 18 Agriculture and Livestock

	2002	1997	% Change
Number of Farms:	116	85	+36

Total Farm Acres:	620,292	487,941	+27
Average Farm Size:	5,347 acres	5,740 acres	-7
Production Market Value (Total):	\$20,615,000	\$12,871,000	+60
Crops:	\$10,263,000		
Livestock:	\$10,352,000		
Farm Average:	\$177,715	\$151,422	+17
Government Payments:	\$123,000	\$23,000	+435
Gov. Payments Avg/Farm:	\$6,128	\$3,718	+62

Source: 2002 Census of Agriculture

Of Lander County's 620,292 acres of farm land, 25,546 acres are irrigated. Irrigation water withdrawal is estimated at approximately 4.5 acre-feet per acre annually. Irrigation conveyance losses were estimated at a relatively low 0.8 acre-feet per acre annually. This efficient use of irrigation water leaves approximately 3.7 acre feet for consumptive uses.

TABLE 19
Major Crops and Livestock Production
2002 1997

Forage Crops	41,581 acres	26,000 acres
Cattle and Calves	30,161 head	30,000 head
Sheep	2,686 head	6,000 head

Source: Nevada Agricultural Statistics Service: Nevada Agricultural Statistics 2004

X. RANGE AND GRAZING MANAGEMENT

As described previously there are approximately 116 ranches and farms in Lander County. Most are dependent upon federally administered lands for grazing. There are 30,161 cattle and 2,686 sheep in the county. The federally administered lands are an essential component for most of the county's ranches. Grazing authorized on the federally administered lands has been reduced over many years for a variety of reasons. Some reasons identified by the federal agencies for the reductions include conflicts with riparian and stream conditions, loss of rangeland productivity, wild horse needs, increases in less desirable species and noxious weeds along with impacts on key wildlife areas such as habitats for threatened and endangered species and other species. Other factors include low market prices, high costs of labor/equipment, and the trend toward purchase of small ranches by large corporations. All of these factors have had some impact on changing the historic ranching trends.

Resource Concepts Inc., developed a grazing report entitled "A Review of Public Land Grazing in Central Nevada," dated July 1998 for the N-6 Grazing Board, Eureka, Lander, and Nye Counties. Table 20 describes the grazing trends on BLM administered lands and National Forest lands based on this report. The figures represent all three counties in Central Nevada. However, the report also reflects specific conditions in Lander County.

In 2005, Lander County included 183,169 AUMs (BLM) and 18,498 AUMs (USFS). The reductions in AUMs as described in Table 20 have impacted the traditional economies of Lander County directly through the loss of revenues to the rancher and the community. Additionally, the reduction of permitted AUMs has reduced the value of the individual ranches and the ability of the rancher to secure financing. Other economic activities such as recreation have not replaced the economic loss to date.

TABLE 20 Summary of Grazing Authorization by BLM and Forest Service

Time Period	Measured in AUMs	BLM Shoshone- Eureka Resource Area	Austin Ranger District	Tonopah Ranger District
Before 1980	Adjudicated Preference	382,211	n/a	n/a
Status as of 1980	Permitted Preference	312,828	36,141	16,422
Status as of 1986	Permitted Preference		37,496	14,813
September 1995	Permitted Preference	252,937		
Status on 1998 (BLM) Status on 1997 (USFS)	Permitted Preference	246,736	23,458	8,513
Percent Change as of 1998, - Based on Period Before 1980 to 1998		35.4%		
Percent Change 1980-1997		21.1%	35 %	48%
BLM - Change in Permit Value 1980-1998 (\$37.00/AUM)		(-\$2,445,404)		
USFS - Change in Permit Value 1980-1997 (\$42/AUM)			(-\$532,686)	(-\$322,178)
BLM - Annual Direct Economic Impact to Livestock Sector 1980-		(-\$1,387,494)		

1998 (\$21/AUM)			
USFS - Annual Direct Economic Impact to Livestock Sector 1980- 1997 (\$21/AUM)		(-\$266,343)	(- \$166,089)

Source: Document entitled "A Review of Public Land Grazing in Central Nevada" dated July 1998, prepared by Resource Concepts, Inc. For N-6 State Grazing Board, Lander and Eureka, and Nye County Commissioners.

Although mining remains the dominant industry in the county, mining activity historically has fluctuated greatly depending on market prices. The experience of the last 18 months illustrates how quickly market changes can impact mining activity. A stable agricultural industry is important to Lander County's economy especially when mining activity slows.

TABLE 21

U.S. Forest Service, Austin-Tonopah Ranger District

Livestock Grazing AUM's in Lander County - 2005

Allotment	AUMs (permitted)
Bade Flat C&H	1,157
Birch Creek C&H	513
Bunker S&G	5,055
Cahill C&H	765
Elkhorn C&H	815
Gold Park C&H	493
Hot Spring Winter C&H	870
Kingston S&G	5,055
Lake Flat C&H	60

Monitor Winter	
C&H	900
North Shoshone	
C&H	350
Reeds-Indian	
Canyon C&H	1,387
Stoneberger C&H	
	130
Washington C&H	
	948
TOTAL	18,498

Source: USFS 2005 C&H = Cattle and Horses S&G = Sheep and Goats

TABLE 22<u>BLM Battle Mountain District</u>
Livestock Grazing AUM's in Lander County - 2005

Allotment	AUMs (permitted)	AUMs (suspended)
Argenta	17,199	-
Austin	14,478	18,277
Buffalo Valley	16,218	5,456
Carico Lake	33,453	267
Copper Canyon	5,023	335
Cottonwood	5,683	-
Dry Creek	5,702	2,311
Gilbert Creek	13,071	11,769
Grass Valley	17,701	6,219
Kingston	2,729	-
Manhattan Mtn.	1,747	2,946
Mount Airy	3,558	1,465
North Buffalo	3,447	-
O'Toole Ranches	1,006	230
Potts	9,262	-
San Juan	9,189	-

Santa Fe/Ferguson	5,202	2,379
Simpson Park	6,044	2,589
South Smith Creek	5,350	3,889
Tierney Creek	817	-
Underwood	-	-
Washington Creek	360	1,140
Wildcat Canyon	2,057	-
Willow Race Track	252	-
Willows Ranch	3,621	1,749
TOTAL	183,169	61,021

Source: BLM 2005

Note: BLM and USFS maps that correspond to Tables 21 and 22 are included in Appendix B. Some of the aforementioned BLM and USGS AUM allotments include portions of neighboring counties.

XI. MINING

Mining has played a crucial role in the development of Lander County. The mining industry is by far the most dominant industry sector in Lander County, as to job shares (45% of total), payrolls (63.7 %of total), personal incomes (64.2 % of total) and its impacts on other industry sectors in the county and regional economies. In 1996, Lander County's mines produced some \$257.31 million in total gross proceeds, a figure representing all minerals actually produced in a given year.

For Lander County this production represented primarily gold production. Based on this level of production, Lander County accounted for 8.3 % of Nevada's \$3.1 billion in total gross proceeds of mining, making Lander County the fourth most important county behind Eureka, Humboldt, and Nye counties regarding its valuation of mining production. Lander County's peak production was in 1990 when it produced \$276.03 million in gross proceeds and accounted for 10.5 % of the state's total production. As to gross mineral proceeds, the Lander County mining industry's output has risen by a factor of nine times from its total output in 1977. (State of Nevada Socioeconomic Overview, April 1998, Nevada Division of Water Resources (NDWR), Lander County Socioeconomic Overview, July 17, 1998, NDWR).

The drop in gold prices in the late 90's and early 2000's had a serious affect on the Lander County economy and residents. Several mines reduced their operations and approximately 1800 people statewide lost their jobs due to the low gold prices. Most of the job loss has been in Northern Nevada. The last three years have seen a dramatic turnaround in gold prices with an ounce worth over \$440 in early 2005. This increase has led to new exploration, investment and jobs statewide.

XII. PURPOSE OF THE POLICY STATEMENTS

The Plan is a guide developed by the citizens of Lander County regarding the use of federally administered lands. The Plan addresses federal land use management issues directly by establishing a set of principles or specific guidelines. The Plan is intended to be used as a positive guide for federal land management agencies in their implementation of federal plans and management actions. The policies are intended to further agriculture, mining and recreation as principal economic bases of the county. This Plan provides a framework whereby the LCBC can coordinate and influence the implementation of federal policies within the county.

POLICIES

Policy statements have been carried forward from the 1984 SB 40 Plan and the previously updated plans. Additional policy statements have been developed from citizen and PLUAPC feedback as they relate to changing conditions. Many of the statements are reflective of previous positions taken by the Commissioners in resolutions and cooperative agreements.

1. Plan Implementation, Agency Coordination and Local Voice

Agency coordination of planning is mandated by federal laws.

- The Federal Land Policy and Management Act, 43 U.S. § 1701, declared the National Policy to be that "the national interest will be best realized if the public lands and their resources are periodically and systematically inventoried and their present and future use is projected through a land use planning process coordinated with other federal and state planning efforts." See 43 USC §1701 (a) (2).
- 43 U.S.C. § 1712 (c) sets forth the "criteria for development and revision of land use plans." Section 1712 (c) (9) refers to the coordinate status of a county which is engaging in land use planning, and requires that the "Secretary [of interior] shall" "coordinate the land use inventory, planning, and management activities... with the land use planning and management programs of other federal departments and agencies and of the State and local governments within which the lands are located." This provision gives preference to those counties which are

engaging in a land use planning program over the general public, special interest groups of citizens, and even counties not engaging in a land use planning program.

Policy 1-1:

All proposed actions on federally administered lands should be brought to the attention of the PLUAPC for purposes of review to determine if the federal program is in conformance with this Plan pursuant to NEPA requirements. The PLUAPC's role is to recommend to the LCBC appropriate action concerning such proposals.

Policy 1-2:

Lander County will participate with federal agencies on actions that affect federally administered lands within the county. The PLUAPC will serve in an advisory capacity only, and act as liaison between the LCBC and the federal land managing agencies. Studies concerning impacts of proposed actions affecting federally administered lands should be conducted by professionals. PLUAPC requests the commission be notified by the federal agencies before any studies sponsored by the federal land management agencies are initiated. Copies of resource studies should be provided to PLUAPC as soon as available.

Policy 1-3:

The PLUAPC will emphasize consistency between this Plan and federal land use plans which apply to Lander County.

Policy 1-4:

The PLUAPC requests inclusion as a recipient of the BLM Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council and the Mojave Southern Resource Advisory Council meeting minutes and agendas. The PLUAPC will reciprocate by forwarding agendas and minutes to the RACs.

2. Management of Federally Administered Lands

Policy 2-1:

Lander County supports the concept of **Multiple Use Management** as an overriding philosophy for management of the federally administered lands based on multiple use and sustained yield concepts, and in a way that will conserve natural resources.

Policy 2-2:

Whenever possible, protect and preserve the quality of the environment, and ecological, scenic, historical and archeological values; protect and preserve wildlife habitat values compatible with economic development needed to provide for long term benefits for the people of Lander County and future generations.

Policy 2-3:

The citizens of Lander County support the Constitution of the United States and the State of Nevada. Protecting individual freedoms of land ownership, customs and cultures, and traditional free market enterprise is paramount.

3. Federal Land Transactions

The following are policies developed by the BLM and Lander County relating to the federal land program. Appendix A provides a list of parcels generally identified by the County for local public purposes and for community expansion and economic development. The list and the map provide a general description of the lands identified for acquisition and are intended to be used as a guide for more detailed studies. Each parcel will need to be further reviewed at the time a specific realty action is proposed. As an example, although the map and description only describes the area to the section, some of the lands may already be in private ownership and would not be affected by this Plan.

The lands identified in Appendix A represent the latest efforts by the BLM and County in developing an overall plan for transferring some federally administered lands to the county or private sector. This is an on-going process and changes in the list should be expected as new information or needs develop in the future.

Lander County has a total land base of 3,597,440 acres, 83.2 % which are federally managed. Most of the federally administered lands within and adjacent to the communities are administrated by the BLM and US Forest Service, along with the checkerboard lands located along the Central Pacific Railroad right-of-way. The lands north of Battle Mountain (i.e., north part of town) are covered by the Elko Resource Management Plan (RMP). The Land Tenure decisions for this area are described on Page 1 of the Elko RMP, Map 3, dated March 11, 1987. This Plan identifies lands for sale and/or exchanges in both Lander and Elko Counties. Specifically 8,340 acres were identified as available for sale that were difficult and uneconomic to manage, 5,900 acres to meet community expansion needs, and 243,200 acres identified for transfer, primarily through exchange.

The rest of the BLM administered lands in Lander County are included in the Shoshone-Eureka RMP. The BLM's Land Tenure program for this area is described on page 11 of the Shoshone-Eureka RMP and Appendix A. This Plan covers both Lander County and southern Eureka County. The Plan identifies 104,959 acres for disposal and an additional 13,440 acres suitable for disposal as agricultural lands.

Lander County recognizes that many of the policies described below are currently part of the BLM procedures for land adjustments. However, the County believes the basic policies on land tenure need to be clearly expressed in this Plan to communicate County policies not only to the federal agencies, but to the citizens of Lander County as well.

Lander County has identified many parcels for public purposes and for economic development. The specific land adjustment program is to be guided by the following county policies:

Policy 3-1:

The establishment of new specially designated lands (i.e. National Recreation Areas, National Conservation Areas, Wildlife refuges, wilderness, State parks, etc.) is not supported unless specifically endorsed by the County.

Policy 3-2: Government agencies should not acquire additional private lands without first ensuring:

- a. That private land ownership is not decreased;
- b. That private property interests are protected or enhanced;
- c. That socioeconomic impacts are duly considered;
- d. That takings in any form are fully compensated;
- e. That due process is guaranteed to all private parties involved in land use controversies, by means that do not demand or create a financial hardship.

Policy 3-3: Isolated tracts of federally administered lands should be identified for disposal.

Policy 3-4:

Increase opportunities for local economic development by selectively increasing the amount of privately owned land within the county. Lander County's goal for land exchanges is to maintain a "no net loss" in private, county or state acreage. Although the county supports exchanges that will increase economic development, the county is also concerned about any proposal that will reduce private, county or state ownership.

a. Federally administered lands within the municipal service areas of Austin and Battle Mountain should continue to be made available for urban expansion through the Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP)

process. Sale and Exchange Provisions of FLPMA can also be used to transfer lands. These lands should be transferred only when local governments agree that the transfer is opportune and would not be a burden on local governments.

- b. Federally administered lands should be made available as needed for state and local government purposes. Lands identified for public purposes should receive preference to disposal for private purposes.
- c. Before federally administered lands are disposed of, adverse impacts on existing uses should be considered. Adverse impacts could include important wildlife habitat, key seasonal grazing rights, municipal watersheds, flood prone areas, access, and recreational use of the lands.
- d. Land exchanges and lands sales that block up high value public purpose lands and/or make private lands more manageable should be given high priority in federal real estate actions.
- e. Lander County encourages the BLM to review the agency's land sales/exchange procedures to determine ways, including changes in policy and regulations when appropriate, to expedite the sales and exchange process. The existing process can be "cost prohibitive" and time consuming when applied to small isolated land exchanges and sales. All appropriate authorities for land disposal under the BACA Bill should be used for maximum flexibility and for the payment of fees associated with appraisals and other administrative costs to expedite the process.
- f. Land sales should be emphasized over land exchanges.
- g. Public access to and through disposed lands should be retained. Whenever federally administered lands are disposed of, existing public access to adjoining or nearby federally administered lands should be retained for recreational and other multiple use needs. The development of alternative routes of access may be necessary.
- h. The public, local and state governments need to be involved in decisions related to federally administered lands' activities. Adequate public notice should be given before the initiation of land adjustment actions.

Policy 3-5:

Federally administered lands should be transferred to the private sector when suitable for intensive agricultural operations through either the Desert Land Act or the Sale authority provided by FLPMA.

- a. Preference should be given to existing land users or adjacent land owners, where possible.
- b. The lands made available for irrigated farm land must have adequate water, as determined by the State Engineer, and appropriate soil, as determined by a soil study.
- c. A process should be developed to compensate livestock operators for loss of AUMs when federally administered lands are transferred out of federal ownership. The party receiving the lands should be responsible for providing the compensation. Current federal law is limited in that it provides the permittee with a two-year period before the permitted AUMs are reduced or lost, although the law does provide for compensation where there are range improvements involved.
- d. Any federally administered lands fenced in with existing private land, should receive a high priority for sale by the BLM.

Policy 3-6:

Promote the increased use of, and adherence to, comprehensive planning among all government entities in Nevada.

- a. Corridors for the future transmission of energy, communications and transportation need to be planned for in harmony with other multiple uses on federally administrated lands.
- b. The County will review all federally administrated land withdrawals for the transportation, storage, and disposal of all hazardous and toxic refuse or waste materials within the county.

4. Custom and Culture

Policy 4-1:

The County recognizes that local proprietorship leads to optimum resource enhancement through individual and/or local stewardship and responsibility. This principle is recognized as one of the most important aspects of American custom and culture. Private land ownership, free enterprise and local collaboration in the management of our federally administered lands leads to economic prosperity and

security for the people of our great nation. Our forefathers, in the realization of these ideals, developed laws which encouraged the private use and development of the resources from the federally administered lands.

5. Community Stability

Policy 5-1:

The stability of the community is reliant upon a strong, stable, private industry and commerce. In order for the county to provide essential services and facilities to meet the basic needs of the people, private enterprise should be encouraged and strengthened to assure a viable tax base to fund these services and facilities.

Policy 5-2:

Increasing governmental regulations and taxation is not only diminishing private enterprise, but it is also threatening to destroy the most important feature of freedom, the rights of individuals to control and utilize private property. The people of Lander County are strongly opposed to this trend in government.

6. Public Safety

Cattle grazing along State Highway 376 (i.e., Austin to Tonopah) and Highway 305 (i.e., Austin to Battle Mountain) historically have been a public hazard and safety problem. Fencing along State Highway 376 has been completed to the Nye County line and fencing on State Highway 305 has been completed. Highway 722 is not fenced and poses a public safety problem as well as an economic hardship when cattle are lost. In the unfenced areas the cattle are free to wander along and across the road.

Policy 6-1:

Lander County recommends that any unfenced rights-of-ways along State highways be fenced to protect the traveling public and to minimize the loss of livestock. This fencing should be constructed under a cooperative effort between the BLM, Nevada Department of Transportation and the permitees.

Recently, the BLM has proposed new law enforcement regulations that could increase the authority BLM has conducting law enforcement on public lands.

Policy 6-2:

Lander County appreciates the presence and cooperation of federal law enforcement officers on public lands but is opposed to any increase in BLM law enforcement authority. The County prefers the existing protocol between BLM and other federal law enforcement officers, and the Lander County Sheriff. Lander County strongly supports the provisions contained in the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution and the absolute right of a person to carry firearms on public lands.

7. Agriculture and Livestock Production

It is recognized that agricultural production in Nevada will be necessary to help meet the requirements of future state populations and is important to Lander County.

Preserve agricultural land and promote the continuation of agricultural pursuits in Lander County and Nevada.

Policy 7-2: The pursuit and production of renewable agricultural resources are consistent with the long term heritage of Lander County. The importance of this private industry to economic and cultural well being of the citizens of Lander County is duly recognized.

Policy 7-3: Opportunities for agricultural development on federally administered lands should continue at levels that are consistent with historical customs, culture and compatibility with other multiple uses.

Policy 7-4: Grazing should utilize sound management practices. Range assessments and capacity determinations should be based on an allotment-by-allotment basis, based on site-specific monitoring. The procedures described in the Nevada Rangeland Monitoring handbook should be followed to establish proper levels of grazing.

Policy 7-5:

Allotment management strategies should be developed that provide incentives to optimize stewardship by the permittee. Maximum flexibility should be given to the permittee to reach condition standards for the range. Monitoring should utilize the use of long-term trend studies as described above.

Policy 7-6: The BLM should be encouraged to develop regionally variable grazing fees that are based on the quality and quantity of forage, accessibility and infrastructure.

Policy 7-7: Livestock operators need assurance of long-term tenure as an incentive for good stewardship. Active range improvement programs

are encouraged. AUMs should not be reduced upon the sale of land and federal agencies doing so should cease this policy immediately.

Policy 7-8:

Recognize the value and the necessity to maintain and increase agricultural lands, if possible by all levels of government.

Policy 7-9:

The County will provide guidance and aid, through county extension agents, control of predators and pests that are harmful to the economic well-being of the agricultural industry and residents of its communities. Active pest and predator control will be used if it is clearly demonstrated there are only minimal undesirable side effects on wildlife and wildlife habitats. Programs to control mountain lions and other predators will be used when necessary to maintain optimum levels of game animals.

Policy 7-10: The federal agencies should give a priority to working cooperatively with the county to control noxious weeds. The continued spread of noxious weeds is a serious threat to agriculture and native grasslands within the county. This threat requires immediate action by federal, state and local agencies along with private land owners while there is still time to control the spread of these weeds. A Cooperative Agreement was approved by the county on October 26, 1998. The agreement is currently being circulated for signatures. See Appendix C for copy of the Cooperative Agreement.

8. Air Quality

Policy 8-1:

The County supports the establishment of air quality standards based on local background conditions by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection.

Policy 8-2:

The County supports the establishment of particulate monitoring stations by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection to establish local ambient emission conditions.

9. Cultural Resources

Policy 9-1:

Lander County supports multiple use of cultural resources (i.e., research, interpretative opportunities for the public etc.) compatible with local customs and culture, limited by private property rights and local self-determination.

Policy 9-2:

Significant historical sites (e.g., town sites) should be studied if destruction of such sites is imminent. Lander County supports the concept of a systematic and early planning process for management of cultural resources to avoid crisis management where possible.

Policy 9-3:

Prehistoric site studies should be coordinated with local Native American communities. Cultural resource studies and activities should be documented to the extent that they are characterized for posterity. Lander County recognizes and supports protection and management of the significant cultural values in sites such as the Hickison Petroglyphs and Toquima Cave.

Policy 9-4:

Cultural resources must be managed in a way that allows for community advancements supported by the will of most of Lander County residents, consistent with federal and state law.

10. Forestry and Forest Products

Policy 10-1:

The County supports the prudent development of forest product industries, firewood cutting areas, and the selling of permits for Christmas trees, posts, and pine nuts.

Policy 10-2:

The County urges BLM and US Forest Service to reduce the amount of paperwork required for wildland/urban interface and forest thinning contracts. The current contract process is excessively onerous and precludes many local entities from deriving an economic benefit from the forests, which in turn is a detriment to Lander County as a whole. Permits should be free to those removing dead and dying trees.

Policy 10-3:

The County recognizes the importance of maintaining healthy aspen communities and encourages activities that will retain and improve the vigor of these communities.

11. Water Resources

Lander County's water resources are the basis for all the resource, economic, and cultural viability enjoyed by the county residents and visitors to the county.

Policy 11-1: Water rights need to be maintained and protected. Transfers of water rights should be carefully considered regarding local traditions and cultural needs. Interbasin transfers of water should be approved only if it can be shown that the transfer is in the best interest of the citizens of

Lander County. In determining any interbasin transfer of groundwater from the basin of origin, the State Engineer shall consider the economy, environment and quality of life in the basin of origin.

Policy 11-2:

Lander County adheres to the principles of private water rights and "beneficial use" concepts as implemented under state law.

Policy 11-3:

Growth should occur at levels that are within the capacity of the area's water supply. Growth should not be encouraged where it would require large importation of water from outside the local water basin.

Policy 11-4:

Growth in the urban counties should not take place at the expense of the rural counties. Lander County is opposed to the export of water resources out of the County to support the expansion of urban areas.

Policy 11-5:

Lander County supports the Nevada Stockwater Bill passed by the 2003 State Legislature. The Bill assures that permits or certifications issued to appropriate water for watering livestock on federally administered lands are limited to applicants legally entitled (i.e., owners of the livestock) to place the livestock on the federally administered lands.

Policy 11-6:

Lander County intends to abide by all State regulations concerning water quality. However, the County is concerned about the use of one general statewide standard that does not take in account local background chemistries. Lander County encourages the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection to consider local geologic and soil chemistry conditions when establishing water quality standards.

12. Wetlands, Riparian Habitat and Waters of the United States

Policy 12-1:

The PLUAPC should be notified of any federal or state agency proposals concerning water resources within the County. Lander County requests active participation in all decisions concerning management of waterways, wetlands, and riparian areas on federally administrated lands in the county.

Policy 12-2:

It is the policy of Lander County that wetlands and waters of the US should be protected from undue degradation. The County recognizes that the value of wetlands and waters of the US is not greater than

the benefit and needs of the citizens in using and developing these resources. The County requests that any newly designated wetlands be administrated by county or state agencies.

<u>Policy 12-3:</u> Waterways, wetlands and riparian areas should be managed in a responsible and balanced manner with other resources.

13. Mineral Resources

The development of Nevada's mineral resources is desirable and necessary to the economy of the nation, the state and particularly to Lander County.

Policy 13-1: Retain existing mining areas and promote the expansion of mining operations and areas.

Policy 13-2: Lander County supports the Mining Law of 1872 and opposes any policy or regulatory revisions that may result in overregulation.

Policy 13-3: The federal government should continue to evaluate the mineral resources on lands before they are sold or exchanged. The federal agencies are encouraged to continue to manage the presently open, federally-owned mineral estate in Lander County as open to mineral location, sales and leases. The agencies should carefully evaluate all withdrawals and land disposal and minimize the separation of surface and mineral estates in all realty actions.

- a) Federal management policies on existing split mineral estates should be developed with state and local participation.
- b) The mineral withdrawal process may be an acceptable means of protecting fragile or "special" lands, but its use should be limited.

Policy 13-4: Federal land management agencies should continue to enforce existing reclamation standards to ensure there is no undue degradation of the federally administered lands.

Policy 13-5:

To improve the economic well-being of the County, federal land management agencies should allow the use of buildings and infrastructure on reclaimed sites for other uses. Buildings should be retained for other economic development including industry as well as uses pursuant to the Recreation and Public Purposes Act.

Policy 13-6:

Mine site and exploration reclamation standards should be consistent with the best possible post mine use for each specific area. Specific reclamation standards should be developed for each property rather than using broad based universal standards. Private properties (i.e., patented claims) should be reclaimed to the standard and degree desired by their respective owners, following state law and regulations.

Policy 13-7:

An annual assessment requirement for holding mining claims has led to unjustified land disturbances which did not necessarily aid in the furtherance of the property's resource development. These requirements have since been revised and provide for the claim holder to pay a \$100 fee annually to the BLM, in lieu of doing work on the ground. There is an exemption for a small miner who holds ten claims or less. If the small miner chooses the exemption, \$100 of assessment work must be expended annually to hold the claim. Lander County supports the policy of the small miner exemption if the miner is offered the opportunity to develop the property.

Policy 13-8:

The Secretary of Interior prohibition on issuing patents should be withdrawn. The Secretary should use all means to encourage the exploration and development of the mineral resource, including the issuance of patents, as appropriate.

14. Public Access

According to NRS 405.191, a "public road" is defined as follows:

- 1. A United States highway, a State highway or a main, general or minor county road and any other way laid out or maintained by any governmental agency.
- 2. Any way which exists upon a right of way granted by Congress over public lands of the United States not reserved for public uses in chapter 262, section 8, 14 Statutes 253 (former 43 U.S.C. § 932, commonly referred to as R.S. 2477), and accepted by general public use and enjoyment before, on or after July 1, 1979. Each board of county commissioners may locate and determine the width of such rights of way and locate, open for public use and establish thereon county roads or highways, but public use alone has been and is sufficient to evidence an acceptance of the grant of a public user right of way pursuant to former 43 U.S.C. § 932.

3. Any way which is shown upon any plat, subdivision, addition, parcel map or record of survey of any county, city, town or portion thereof duly recorded or filed in the office of the county recorder, and which is not specifically therein designated as a private road or a nonpublic road, and any way which is described in a duly recorded conveyance as a public road or is reserved thereby for public road purposes or which is described by words of similar import."

Policy 14-1: Federal land management agencies should recognize and honor the

valid and important rights Congress gave local governments to own

and manage public roads and related right-of-ways.

Policy 14-2: The State definition of a "public road" (NRS 405.191) should be used

consistently throughout Nevada by all federal, State and local agencies. Road mapping should be coordinated between the US

Forest Service and BLM.

Policy 14-3: Utilize R.S. 2477 right-of-ways to protect historical public access to

public lands across private property.

Policy 14-4: Supports access to mining claims by adhering to the rights claimed

under R.S. 2477.

Policy 14-5: Optimize accessibility within the County and reduce the cost of

movement between all communities across federally administered lands. Public access to federally administered lands is vital to Lander

County's economic stability.

Policy 14-6: The County supports transportation of minerals and mining products

over federal, state, and county roads and highways, given that

appropriate safety precautions guarantee public safety.

15. Recreation and Open Space

Lander County enjoys many natural amenities that attract local residents and visitors. These resources should be protected and developed for the public's multiple use benefit. This section represents Lander County's Open Space Element of the Master Plan and corresponds to recreation and open space polices and maps contained therein. This Open Space Element represents the qualifying plan for participation in the State of Nevada's Question 1 Program.

Open space is critical to Lander County's economic, historical and cultural identity.

Policy 15-1:

The development and use of open space for at least 20 years shall be considered and accommodated as a priority of Lander County, which may hold title to the acquired open space and may also be accountable for operation and maintenance responsibilities. Distribution of available funding for open space acquisition and maintenance will be coordinated by the Planning Commission and Public Land Use Advisory Planning Commission. A set of guidelines for actual uses and improvements allowed on acquired open space properties, along with land management practices, will be prepared and endorsed by participating entities and the Board o County Commissioners through a public process.

Policy 15-2:

Financing for the planning, acquisition and maintenance of open space may be accommodated by Lander County or by partnering with other entities such as non-profit land trusts to pursue creative funding sources, including ways that will enable local citizens to become directly involved. Alternative funding methods are important in stretching an open space budget.

Policy 15-3:

The Board of County Commissioners may, by ordinance, impose some or all of the three different taxes listed below after receiving individual approval of each tax by a majority of the registered voters of the County. Voting on the question will be during a general or special election. The enabling legislation (NRS 376A.020) requires the adoption of this Open Space Element by the Board of County Commissioners.

- 1. A sales tax increase of up to 1/4 of 1 percent of the gross receipts of any retailer from the sale of all tangible personal property sold at retail, or stored, used or otherwise consumed in the County.
- 2. A real estate transfer tax of up to 1/10 of 1 percent of the value on each deed by which any residential lands, tenements or other residential realty is granted, assigned, transferred or otherwise conveyed to or vested in another person.
- 3. An ad valorem (property) tax at the rate of up to 1 cent on each \$100.00 of assessed valuation upon all taxable property in the county.

Policy 15-4:

Distribution of open space funds is the function of Lander County and may be performed by State and federal agencies as well as other organizations. These entities will hold title to the acquired open space and will also be accountable for operation and maintenance responsibilities. Distribution of available open space funding for open space acquisition and maintenance, not to include general fund and discretionary resources available to government entities, will be coordinated through the Planning Commission and the Public Land Use Advisory Planning Commission. A set of guidelines for actual uses, improvements and land management practices allowed on acquired open space properties will include common standards for the operation and maintenance of open space. These guidelines should be included in an "Implementation Agreement" endorsed by the County and incorporated into the Open Space Plan.

Policy 15-5:

Maintenance of open space land shall be governed through either an established set of guidelines as part of a partnership program with other government agencies, or through negotiated agreements with private property owners. The purpose of an agreement should be to establish legally binding contracts or a mutual understanding of the specific use, treatment and protection that open space lands will receive. Agreements will be accomplished primarily through the use of easements by which the purchaser receives a less than full interest in a parcel of land in order to protect a valuable resource (Conservation Easement). Property owners who grant easements retain all rights to the property except those which have been granted by the easement and there must be a willing participant to enter into such an agreement. Easements are generally restricted to certain portions of a property but can be applied to an entire parcel of land in some instances. Easements are transferable through title transactions and remain in effect for the length of the agreement.

Policy 15-6:

Conserve and protect scenic, historical, recreational and open space resources for the benefit of the present and future generations with additional consultation with local, State and federal governments and users. Lander County recognizes that recreation in all forms is consistent with multiple use of federally administered lands. All resources utilized by the public should be conserved and Lander County reserves the right for application under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act (R&PP) for all such resources.

Policy 15-7:

Encourage recreational use in Lander County by increasing marketing efforts that describe the recreational opportunities available in the county. Marketing programs that promote such features as the "The Loneliest Highway in America," The Hickison Archaeology Site, The Pony Express Trail, The Overland Stage Route, Kingston Canyon, The Toiyabe Crest Trail, California/Emigrant Trail, Spencer Hot Springs, and The Mill Creek and Willow Creek Recreation Areas should be increased.

Policy 15-8:

Promote "Eco-tour" and responsible off highway vehicle businesses in the County. The themes of the tours could vary from wildlife viewing, to visiting hot springs, historical sites, or to learn to ride motorcycles and drive four wheel vehicles. Ensure that all governmental agencies work in a cooperative effort to encourage such uses while protecting the resources from damage.

Policy 15-9:

Develop a regional marketing strategy that includes the promotion of a heli-ski operations based at the Austin Airport and using the Toiyabe, Toquima and Monitor mountain ranges for recreational heliskiing.

Policy 15-10:

Encourage dispersed recreation opportunities on federally administered lands as a substantial economic asset to local economies.

Policy 15-11:

Federally administered lands with value for concentrated recreational use (camp grounds, historic sites, wagon trails, etc.) should be identified, protected and developed for recreational purposes. The BLM should consider withdrawing these key areas from mineral entry on a limited basis. Any proposals for mineral withdrawals should be coordinated with the PLUAPC.

Policy 15-12:

Recognizing that most Nevadans reside in towns, investments in open space, park and recreation facilities should be concentrated as close to resident populations as feasible. More federal water recreation sites and facilities should be provided near Battle Mountain. Other sites in more remote areas is encouraged where feasible.

Policy 15-13:

Protect and promote the Pony Express Trail corridor as a cultural and recreational resource in a way that protects private property rights and promotes tourism.

Policy 15-14: Protect water quality and water rights for recreational fishing in

Kingston Creek, Big Creek, Mill Creek and other important water resources. Recreational uses and facilities are encouraged and should

be developed where appropriate.

Policy 15-15: Support hunting and fishing as recreational resources and as a

multiple use of federally administered lands. Lander County endorses the State's programs to provide sustained levels of game animals.

Policy 15-16: The establishment of new specially designated lands (i.e. National

Recreation Areas, National Conservation Areas, Wildlife refuges, wilderness, State parks, etc.) is not supported unless specifically

endorsed by the County.

Policy 15-17: Promote increased marketing of the Pony Express 100 automobile

road race between Battle Mountain and Austin.

16. Wilderness

The Bureau of Land Management conducted a 15-year wilderness study completed in 1991. The Secretary of Interior recommended in a Record of Decision dated October 18, 1991 that 147,264 acres of federally administered lands within Lander County should be released from wilderness study for uses other than wilderness.

The areas in Lander County include:

2) Simpson Park ** NV-060-428 49,670	
3) Desatoya Mountains *** NV-030-110 8,222	
Total 147,264	acres

^{*} Augusta Mountains is within Lander, Humboldt, and Churchill Counties.

Many years have passed since the Secretary's recommendation with no Congressional action and many of these areas were taken out of multiple use. Lander County has adopted the following policies as expressed in Lander County Resolution No. 98-21, dated October 26, 1998.

^{**} Simpson Park WSA lies partially in Lander and Eureka Counties.

^{***} Desatoya Mountains WSA lies partially in Lander and Churchill Counties.

Policy 16-1:

"Nevada's Congressional delegation is hereby urged to sponsor and actively pursue passage of legislation releasing from wilderness study the 147,264 acres of public land in Lander County, Nevada determined by the U.S. Department of Interior and Bureau of Land Management to be unsuitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System."

Policy 16-2:

The designation of any area in the county as wilderness is not supported (i.e., Desatoya Mountains, WSA NV-030-110). As part of any potential land act process in Lander County, the Congressional delegation should conduct public hearings that specifically address the BLM's wilderness recommendations.

Policy 16-3:

Wildlife, fire control, weed management, mineral resources, visitor impacts, grazing, public access and management needs should be considered when designating areas for wilderness and in the development of wilderness area management plans. Documented mineral resources are adequate reasons for not considering the area as wilderness.

Policy 16-4:

Any wilderness area management plans should be developed involving the public and governmental consultation, preferably using a coordinated resource management and planning type process.

17. Wild Horses

Policy 17-1:

Manage wild horses to reduce detrimental impacts on other multiple uses and pursue resource enhancement where needed to correct wild horse caused damage.

Policy 17-2:

Wild horse herds should be managed at reasonable levels to be determined with public involvement and managed with consideration of the needs of other wildlife species and livestock grazing. The BLM and the State should work cooperatively on wild horse management issues. BLM should give a priority to establishing Appropriate Management Levels (AML) for the remaining horse management areas. The AML should be established at levels that does not jeopardize or interfere with the economic viability of any private

enterprise within Lander County, and be coordinated with the BLM Resource Advisory Council.

Policy 17-3: Educate Congress and the public on the impacts of wild horses. Encourage legislation to allow greater flexibility for the disposal and

adoption of wild horses.

Policy 17-4: Wild horse impacts on private lands and water sources should be

mitigated.

Policy 17-5: Encourage the BLM to increase the potential of the adoption program

for wild horses through an aggressive marketing program.

Policy 17-6: The BLM should take advantage of good forage years by emphasizing

maintenance level captures on horse management areas that have established AMLs. Maintenance of established AMLs is economical if herd numbers are kept in check periodically. Once herds greatly exceed the AMLs, capture and management is very expensive.

Policy 17-7: Publicize and encourage areas where the public can view wild horses.

Policy 17-8: Lander County supports a strict policy of wild horse population control

to ensure the species does not interfere with the productivity of the

ranching community.

18. Wildlife

Policy 18-1: Identify, protect and preserve wildlife species and habitats. Wildlife

and fisheries' populations are recognized as a renewable resource and therefore should be managed accordingly. Coordination of federal and state wildlife and fisheries' management and enforcement is

encouraged.

Policy 18-2: Hunting and fishing is an important recreational resource and multiple

use of federally administered lands. The county supports the State's

programs to provide sustaining levels of game animals.

Policy 18-3:

Identify habitat needs of wildlife species, such as adequate forage, water, cover, etc. and provide for those needs in time, to attain reasonable population levels compatible with other multiple uses.

- a) Known critical wildlife habitats such as streams, riparian zones, wetlands etc. should receive protection where needed.
- b) Wildlife habitat improvement projects such as guzzlers should be continued as appropriate. The projects should take into consideration impacts on other uses.
- c) The county supports general improvements to the waterways and fisheries to enhance access for recreational activities.

Policy 18-4:

Rangeland management should include adequate consideration of wildlife needs.

Policy 18-5:

Adequate and sufficient habitats to support the reintroduction of big horn sheep in Lander County should be provided on federally administered lands. The mountain ranges identified for reintroduction include: Battle Mountains, Desatoya Range, Fish Creek Mountains, Sheep Creek Range, Sheep Range, Shoshone Range and Toiyabe Range. The reintroduction of the bighorn sheep should be in coordination with local government officials and agencies.

Policy 18-6:

The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) should give a high priority to the opinion of the County wildlife boards when setting harvest levels for wildlife.

Policy 18-7:

Lander County should establish a threatened and endangered species (T&E) committee for overseeing protection and recovery of all federal and state listed threatened and endangered and sensitive species, coordinated with the BLM Resource Advisory Councils.

19. Fire Management

Policy 19-1:

Improve local coordination between BLM, US Forest Service and local volunteer fire departments to improve fire suppression. The federal agencies need to take advantage of the skills and local knowledge of local residents. This is particularly important when using out-of-state fire crews for fire fighting. Lander County will aid in any way possible

in suppression of wildfires that endanger the livelihoods and personal well-being of its citizens.

Policy 19-2:

Encourage the development of mutual aid agreements between the local fire departments and the federal agencies. The BLM has a county wide operating plan for fire management in the northern part of the county and conducts a joint preseason meeting with the county fire chief and sheriff's office annually. Lander County and the federal agencies should evaluate the need for a similar agreement for the Austin and Kingston areas. Lander County supports the use of mutual aid agreements and encourages the federal agencies to utilize local fire fighting resources as much as possible.

Policy 19-3:

Encourage the federal agencies to continue the policy of contracting with Lander County residents for privately owned equipment suitable for fire fighting. Encourage the practice of early season inspections and sign-ups well before the fire season.

Policy 19-4:

Encourage the federal agencies to consider using livestock to reduce the fire hazard. There may be situations where livestock grazing can be effective in reducing the fire danger and will not result in environmental damage.

Policy 19-5:

Fire equipment brought in from out-of-state should be cleaned to assure it is "weed-free" before being dispatched to a wildfire.

Policy 19-6:

Develop a County Wildland Urban Interface Emergency Services Plan as soon as possible, coordinated with Lander County, BLM, US Forest Service and the UNR Cooperative Extension.

20. Military Operations

Policy 20-1:

Lander County supports a collaborative dialogue with the Department of Defense on all future testing and training. Lander County supports military training on federally administered lands and military-withdrawn lands in central Nevada because of the positive economic impacts.

Policy 20-2:

Lander County opposes any further military land withdrawals.

21. Energy Production

Policy 21-1:

Energy production is encouraged as a vital economic component of the Lander County economy. Renewable resources should be a priority and utilized in a manner that compliments other environmental resources. All efforts should be undertaken to ensure a balance between energy development and protection of resources that make the County attractive to residents and visitors.

Policy 21-2:

The development and coordinated siting of new energy generation and transmission facilities is encouraged. Coordinated planning is needed to integrate related federal, State and local planning documents and processes and expedite the permitting and evaluations needed for project approvals.

22. Habitat Conservation Planning

Habitat conservation planning is important if the County and State wish to preserve wildlife species as well as way of life. Without proper planning and protection, species could be listed under the Endangered Species Act. If this occurs, drastic measures will be required to address the listing. It is much more beneficial to proactively develop appropriate habitat conservation planning measures.

Policy 22-1:

Promote proactive habitat conservation planning to improve the habitat of species at risk of being listed under the Endangered Species Act, and to help avoid the adverse impacts associated with such listings.

Policy 22-2:

Habitat conservation planning should consider the economic and social consequences of the conservation efforts being considered.

Policy 22-3:

Habitat conservation planning should include the use of positive incentives for private landowners to increase the likelihood the plan will succeed.

23. Off Highway Vehicles (OHVs)

The use of off highway vehicles (OHVs) has skyrocketed over the past decade. With this increase comes a number of environmental impacts and economic benefits.

Policy 23-1:

Direct OHV use to designated trails and actively discourage the pioneering of new trails and use in sensitive areas through collaborative public education efforts with the local communities and federal planning partners.

Policy 23-2:

Support community efforts to expand the availability of OHV trails and resources such as the new Silver State OHV Trail in Lincoln County.

APPENDIX A

LANDER COUNTY'S LAND ADJUSTMENT PLAN FOR FEDERAL LANDS Proposal to Acquire Federal Lands

2005

OVERVIEW - Federal lands should be made available for state, local government and private uses. The lands listed below have been identified for acquisition by Lander County for public purposes, or are lands needed for economic expansion and should be made available by the BLM for private development.

The following lands were identified in the original 1984 Lander County Policy Plan for Public Lands and reviewed for appropriateness in 1999 and 2005. These lists are consistent with the Land Tenure Section of the BLM's Shoshone-Eureka Resource Management Plan dated January 27, 1984 where they were identified as suitable for disposal after extensive public involvement and concurrence. The list of lands and the map provide a general description of the lands identified for acquisition and is intended to be used as a guide for more detailed studies. Each parcel will need to be further reviewed at the time a specific realty action is proposed. As an example, although the map and description only describe the area to the section, some of the lands may already be in private ownership and would not be affected by this plan.

To provide maximum public benefit, all disposal should be by the most appropriate authority available, with individual land sales, R&PP transfers, and exchanges encouraged. Disposal must be completed in coordination with local government governing bodies. These lands are primarily small tracts and checkerboard lands. As specific parcels of federally administered lands are proposed for sale, site specific information must be made available to the public, and environmental assessments completed.

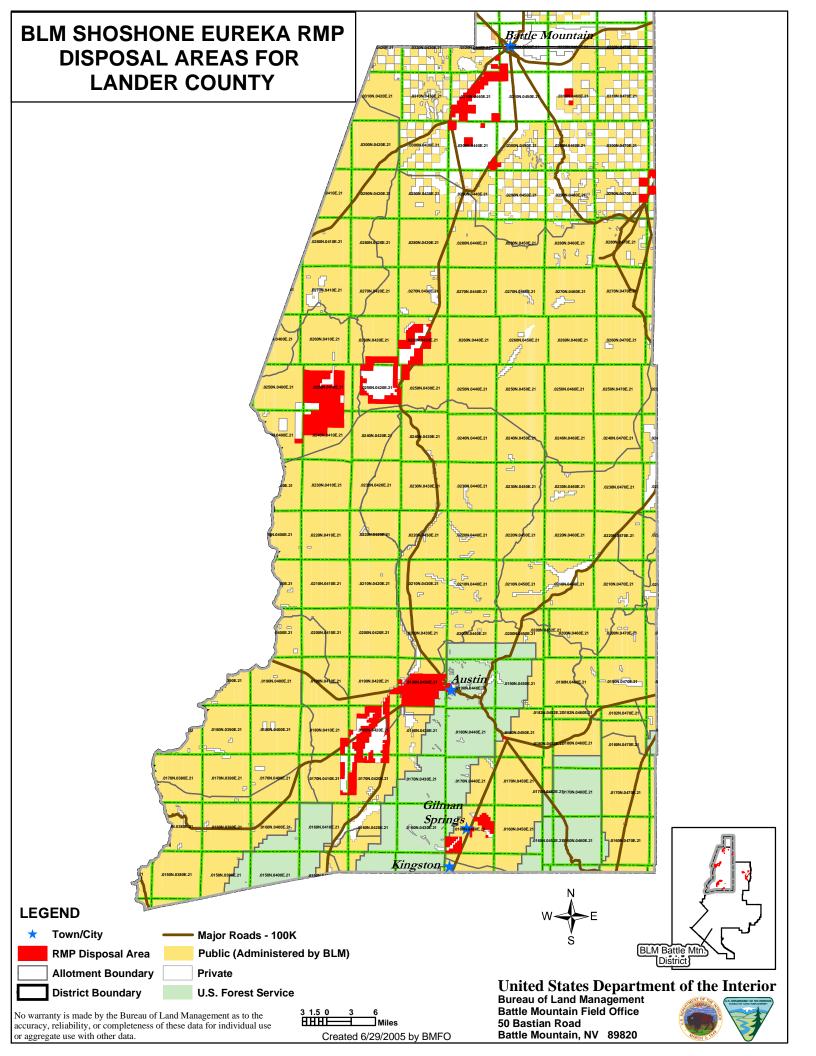
TABLE A1 Land for Local Government Facilities

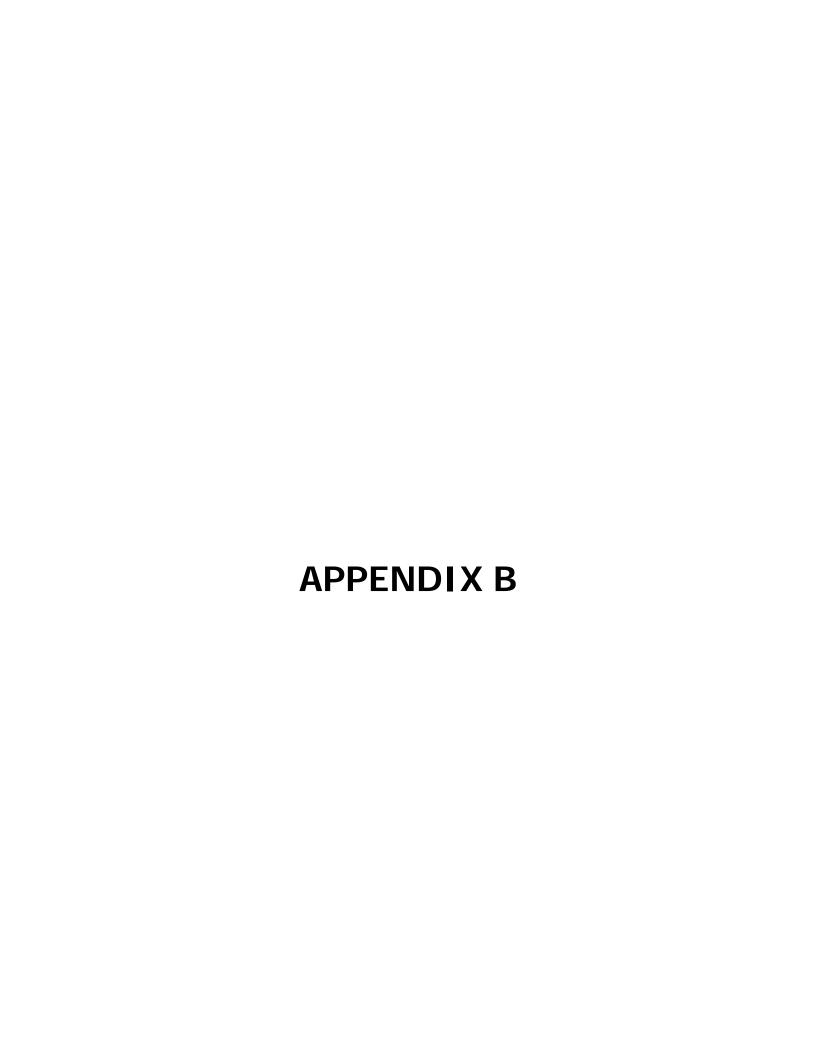
The following lands have been identified by local government entities for local government facilities.

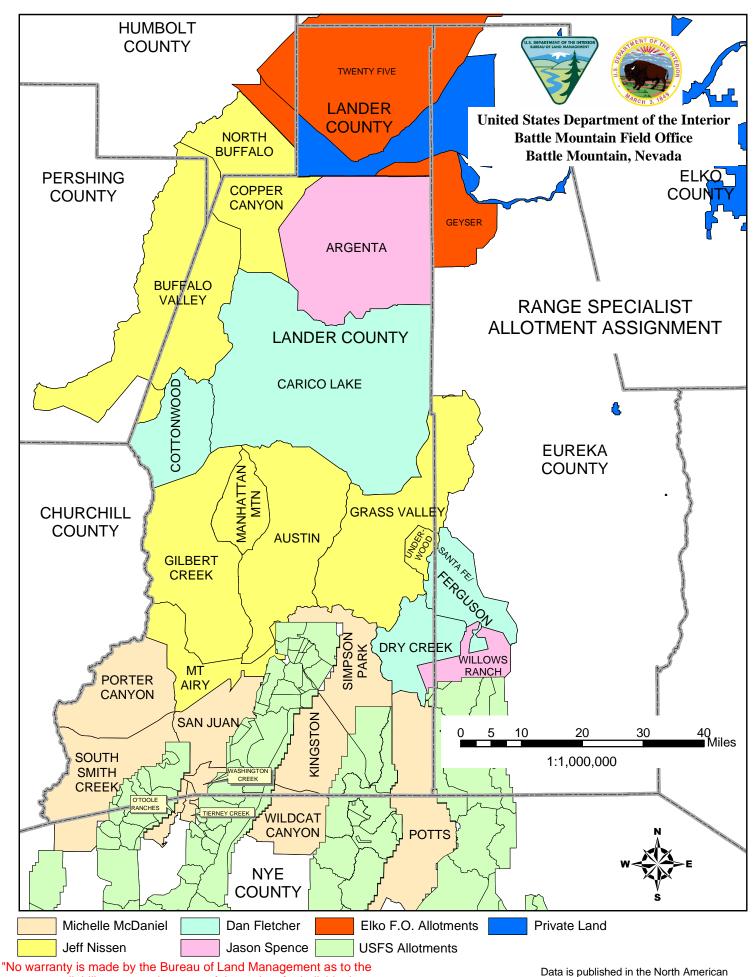
Public Purposes, schools, public facilities, or other needs.	Township	Range	Section	Acres [Total acres selected within section(s)]
Recreation area - Marshall Canyon	T. 19 N.	R. 43 E.	23	320
Recreational area near Battle Mountain				To be determined

TABLE A2
Lands Identified for Economic Development (Private Sector)

Lands Identified for Private Purposes	Township	Range	Section	Acres [Total acres within selected section(s)]
Lands (approximately 80,000 acres were identified in BLM Plans for disposal	T. 16 N.	R. 44 E.	10-15, 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, 31, 32	4,395
	T. 17 N. T. 17 N.	R. 41 E. R. 42 E.	12, 13, 25 2-7, 18, 19, 30	841 3,898
	T. 18 N. T. 18 N. T. 18 N.	R. 41 E. R. 42 E. R. 45 E.	25, 36 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 23, 26, 28-33, 35 20	961 7,979 54
	T. 19 N. T. 19 N. T. 19 N. T. 19 N.	R. 42 E. R. 43 E. R. 44 E. R. 44 E.	24, 25, 26, 35 13-24, 26-35 19, 20	755 11,613 412 (USFS Mgt Lands) 213 (BLM)
	T. 24 N. T. 24 N.	R. 40 E. R. 41 E.	24 2-10, 11, 16, 17, 18	321 6,795
	T. 25 N.	R. 41 E.	7-11, 14-23, 26-30, 33, 34, 35	11,623
	T. 25 N. T. 25 N.	R. 42 E. R. 43 E.	1, 4, 5, 8, 12, 13, 17, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27,28 6, 7	4,945 1,141
	T. 26 N. T. 26 N.	R. 42 E. R. 43 E. R.		2,156 5,877
	T. 29 N. T. 29 N.	R. 47 E. R. 48 E.	12, 24 6, 18	1,419 1,280
	T. 30 N. T. 30 N.	R. 44 E. R. 45 E.	2, 6, 16, 25, 36 31	2,279 167
	T. 31 N.	R. 44 E.	1-3, 9-11, 15-17, 19, 21, 28-32, 36	7,249
	T. 31 N. T. 31 N.	R. 45 E. R. 46 E.	6 16, 21	702 797
	T. 32 N. T. 32 N.	R. 44 E. R. 45 E.	25, 36 31	460 633







"No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data."

Data is published in the North American
Datum 1983 (NAD 83), UTM, Zone 11, meters
March 2005, D. Drennon

