



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

January 25, 2010

Vern Keller
Range NEPA Coordinator
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
1200 Franklin Way
Sparks, NV 89431

Subject: Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Jarbridge Ranger District
Rangeland Management Project, Elko County, Nevada (CEQ#20090446)

Dear Mr. Keller:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or “the Agency”) has reviewed the above-referenced document pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and our NEPA review authority under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

EPA reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and provided comments to the Forest Service on September 8, 2009. We rated the DEIS as Environmental Concerns – Insufficient Information (EC-2) because of concerns over protection of stream banks. We also asked for additional information regarding project implementation and permittee compliance.

EPA is pleased that many of the issues identified in our review of the DEIS have been addressed. Additional information was provided that satisfies concerns the Agency had regarding project implementation and monitoring to ensure compliance with Allotment Management Plans.

EPA commends the Forest Service for modifying the proposed action in the Record of Decision to include a seasonal grazing limitation for bull trout spawning areas within the Dave Creek Allotment. This modification addresses one of the biggest concerns raised by the Agency about the project—the impacts of grazing on riparian and aquatic resources.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this FEIS. If you have any questions, please contact me at (415) 972-3521, or contact Jason Gerdes, the lead reviewer for this project. Jason can be reached at (415) 947-4221 or gerdes.jason@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Kathleen M. Goforth, Manager
Environmental Review Office (CED-2)