

November 28, 2011

Dear Mr. King:

Please find enclosed a copy of our power point presentation for public comment regarding Southern Nevada Water Authority's proposed water filings. We urge you to deny the amount of water that would make this project feasible. Far better alternatives exist than this groundwater project that would desecrate two counties and livelihoods of a multitude of people.

Sincerely,

Kena Lytle Gloeckner

Lytle Ranches

RECEIVED
2011 DEC -1 PM 1:55
STATE ENGINEER AS OF REC

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2011 NOV 31 PM 1:10
STATE ENGINEER AS OF REC

Lytle Ranches

Est. 1845

- In 1845 my great, great grandfather's brother came to this area and began to establish what would become our present-day family cattle ranching operation. Members of the succeeding generations were born on this land, worked hard to earn a living from that land, and were laid to rest in the same area of earth they spent their entire lives. Five generations of extended family lie buried in our small family cemetery, and everyone of those people loved and respected the land that sustained them. Dry Lake Valley has provided our family much of this sustenance for more than one hundred years since it represents 100% of our winter grazing grounds. For five months of the year (November through April), over fifteen hundred head of cattle thrive on the abundant winter fat and on the water supplied from wells and springs as they give birth to their calves in this more moderate climate. Dry Lake Valley is essential to the existence of several ranching operations; without it, the livelihoods of various families would be destroyed, along with a legacy that helped shape the West.

FIRST GENERATION CHARLES LYTLE FAMILY



SECOND GENERATION EDWIN LYTLE FAMILY



THIRD GENERATION ROY LYTLE



FOURTH GENERATION KENNY LYTLE



FIFTH GENERATION KENA LYTLE GLOECKNER



SIXTH GENERATION JASON, KYLEE, AND KORI



SEVENTH GENERATION ROWDY



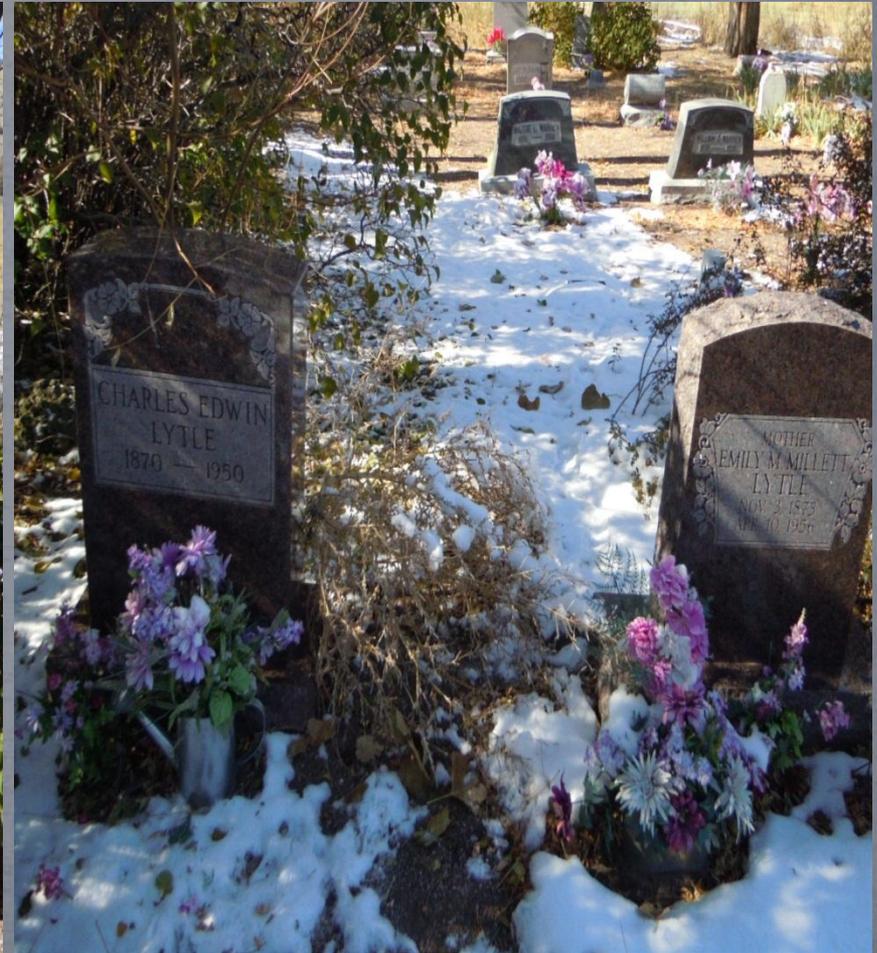
FAMILY CEMETERY EAGLE VALLEY



FIRST GENERATION
CHARLES AND MARGARET
1846-1907 1844-1922



SECOND GENERATION
EDWIN AND EMMA
1870-1950 1873-1956



THIRD GENERATION ROY AND EDITH



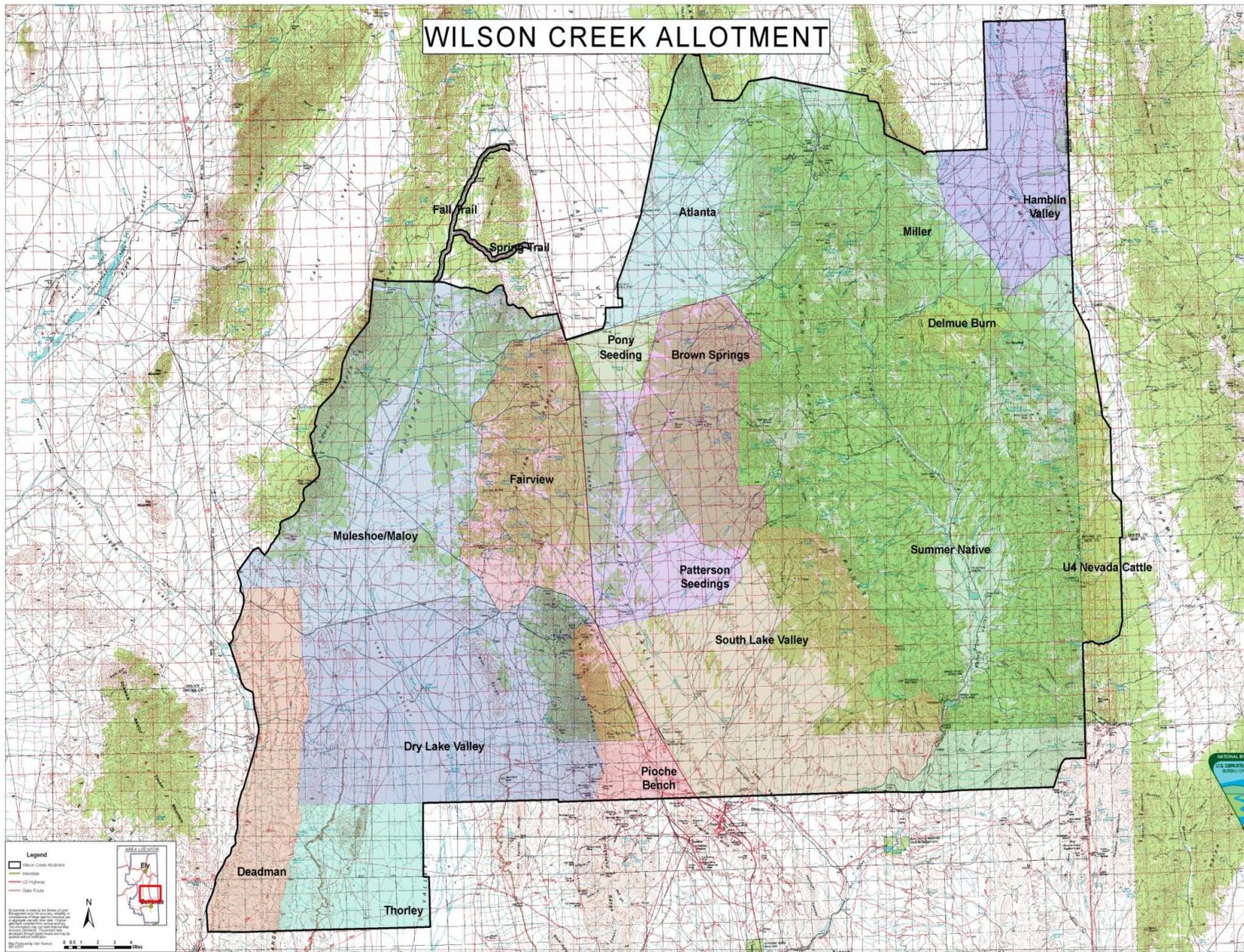
FOURTH GENERATION GORDON AND BETTY



FIFTH GENERATION
LINDA AND KIM
BROTHER AND SISTER



WILSON CREEK ALLOTMENT



BLM

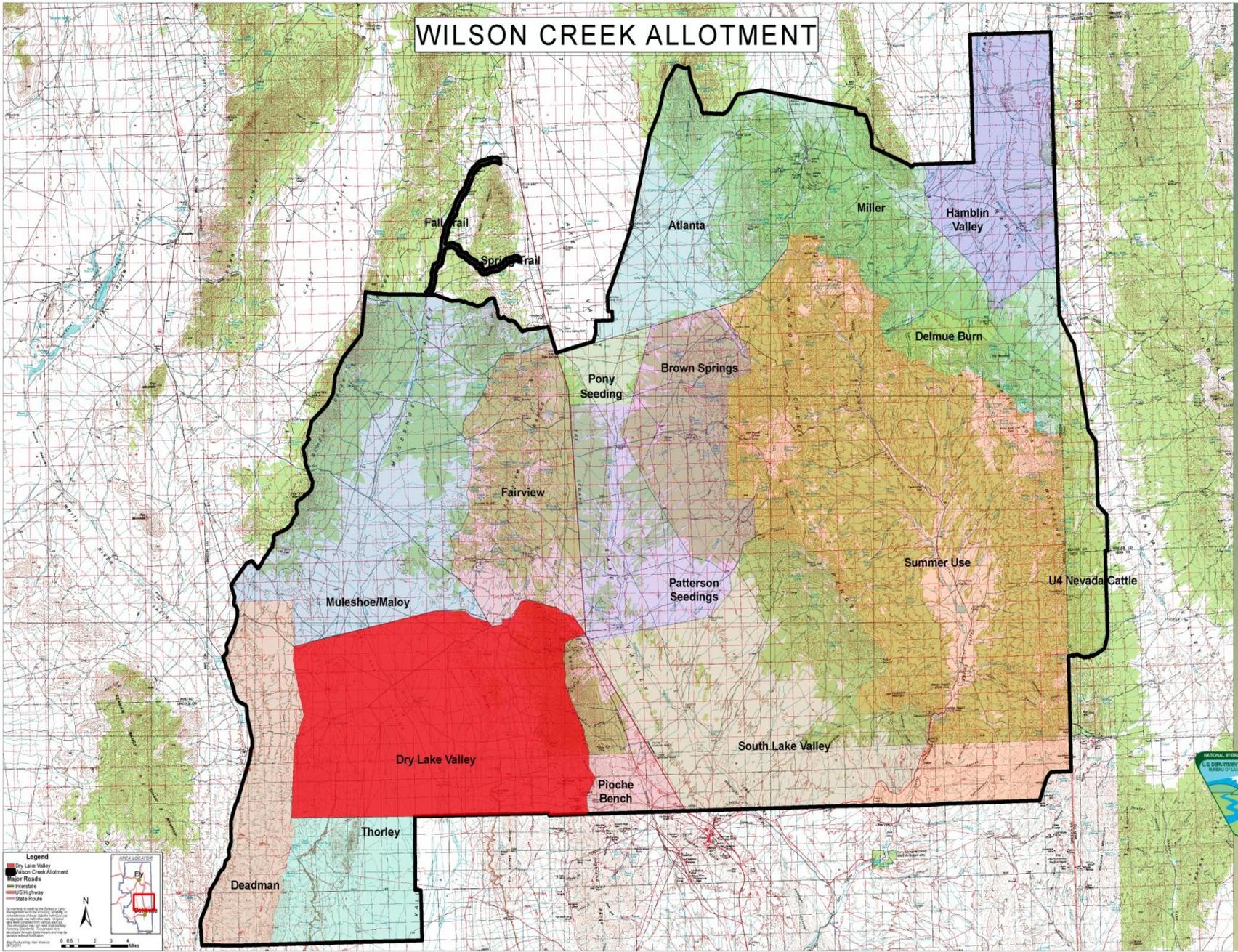
Ely District Office



WILSON CREEK ALLOTMENT

BLM

Ely District Office



Approved in part by the Bureau of Land Management on 08/11/2011. This map is for informational purposes only and does not constitute a legal document. For more information, contact the Ely District Office at 735 E. Main Street, Ely, NV 89301. Telephone: (775) 738-2200. Fax: (775) 738-2201. Email: ely@blm.gov

DIRECT EFFECTS

- Grazing permittees can only run as many livestock as the most limiting portion of their permit; Dry Lake Valley represents 100% of our winter range and is our most limiting portion. Other areas of the Wilson Creek Allotment are not suitable for winter use because of snowfall levels and cold temperatures.
- Loss of forage and/or water in Dry Lake Valley allotment would directly affect 12,163 AUMs.
- Economic impact would be drastic since it would be impossible to replace this lost natural winter forage with hay or another desirable grazing allotment since none are available in our area (Currently we produce over 400 tons of hay per year; this amount sustains only our bulls and replacement heifers. Even with this amount, we often have to buy additional hay to feed through the winter).
- Abundant winter fat areas that exist in Dry Lake, Delamar, and other valleys represent some of the best winter grazing ranges in the state.

- (cont.) On page 35, the BLMs Executive Summary for the Draft EIS states that the GWD Project would be required to revegetate disturbed surfaces, yet this sensitive plant is easily destroyed and almost impossible to reestablish.
- With over 300 miles of disturbance for the pipeline alone, added with the thousands of additional miles for the wells, the collector pipelines, staging areas, electric power lines, access roads, and the permanent and temporary right-of-ways, the soil and vegetation disturbance is unthinkable.
- To make revegetation even more difficult, the soil in the valley bottom of Dry Lake Valley is classified as highly erodible under the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Highly Erodible Lands identification procedures.

- Currently, we have a pipeline network in Dry Lake Valley that is approximately 31 miles long and that transports water to eight reservoirs that provide water for cattle, wildlife, and wild horses in the valley. What effects will the GWD Project pipeline and related facilities have on our existing pipeline? When a buried pipeline that is 96" in diameter (ES – p.17) is taken into consideration, we must ask the questions, "What is going to happen to our present network of pipelines since SNWA's will bisect ours in at least three places? Will our pipeline be buried beneath theirs or above theirs, or will it be destroyed altogether?"
- We ranchers own rights to three wells, two of which are located in the valley bottom. One well is 600 feet deep and barely pumps enough water to fill a small pond. What effects will the pumping have on these three wells? Will we still have accessibility and serviceability to these wells and reservoirs?

- Dry Lake Valley could have up to 834 acres of surface disturbance (ES – p.31), plus its share of the 6,550 acres of land presently used for livestock grazing and wildlife habitat that will be converted to long-term industrial use (ES – p.36). In 1992 we lost almost 1/3 of our grazing permit because of deteriorating plant health due to low precipitation. We can not afford to lose any more AUMs to our operation.
- According to the BLMs Executive Summary, long-term pumping effects could have drastic effects on our water rights, and our wells could be rendered unusable. Minimally (+75 years), in a very small portion of northern Dry Lake Valley, there will be a 10-20 foot drawdown, but in the majority of the valley, a 20-50 foot drawdown will be likely; however, maximally (+200 years), a 50-100 foot drawdown is expected (ES-p.44).

- The BLMs Executive Summary shows the long-term pumping will definitely have drawdown effects on perennial springs, streams, groundwater rights, and surface water rights. Consequently, the cumulative effects from the drawdown will alter forage and vegetation within the grazing allotments (ES-p.51). What is our recourse when the drawdown factor affects our waters and grazing?
- At a recent district court hearing in Ely, Nevada, Judge Robinson asked the SNWA attorneys what the folks with water rights were supposed to do when their springs, streams, and wells were affected by this pipeline. One of the attorneys replied that those people can take us to court just like anyone else. Unfortunately, the average rancher does not have the financial means to become involved in lengthy court battles with someone as powerful as SNWA. Already these water issues are placing an unfair burden on ranchers and others who own water rights by forcing them to pay for protest after protest as SNWA continues to apply for more water.

LAS VEGAS SUN ARTICLE

In a recent article, the Water Authority stated that other areas in the nation offer “far superior economic advantages” for agricultural development than in Lincoln and White Pine Counties. (“Long-awaited water-pipeline decision to follow hearings,” Sept. 21, 2011). This statement is erroneous. We feel our ranching operation is some of the best in the entire country. Dry Lake Valley offers excellent winter range equipped with its own water and winter fat. Right over the hill, twenty minutes away, we have excellent fall and spring range. Likewise, twenty minutes away from those fenced seedings we have some of the best summer range mountains with 8,000 to 9,000 ft. elevations, ample high-mountain grasses, and hundreds of springs and streams. There are not many places in the nation where this type of operation can occur. Furthermore, few people understand the depth of meaning to family roots buried beneath the ground for 150 years and the cost and difficulty to finding what the authority assumes is a “far superior” place, if, indeed, one were to be found.

SUMMER MOUNTAIN RANGES

MT. WILSON



TABLE MOUNTAIN



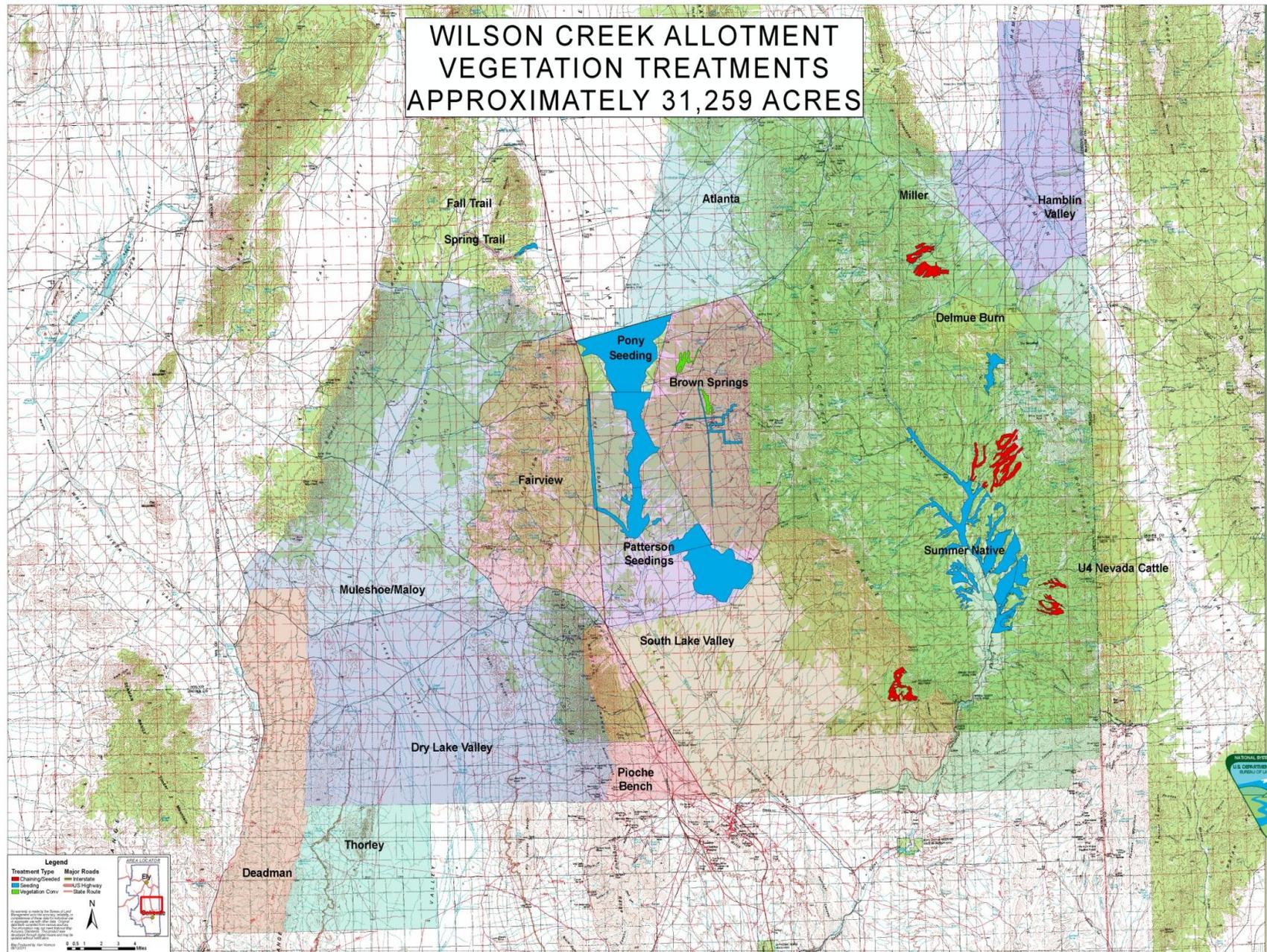
PARSNIP PEAK



WHITE ROCK MOUNTAIN



WILSON CREEK ALLOTMENT VEGETATION TREATMENTS APPROXIMATELY 31,259 ACRES



Fall Trail
Spring Trail
Atlanta
Miller
Hamblin Valley
Delmue Burn
Pony Seeding
Brown Springs
Fairview
Patterson Seedings
Summer Native
U4 Nevada Cattle
Muleshoe/Maloy
South Lake Valley
Piöche Bench
Dry Lake Valley
Thorley
Deadman

Legend

Treatment Type	Major Roads
Seeding	US Highway
Vegetation Conv.	State Route

Approved in March by the Bureau of Land Management, Ely District Office, for the Wilson Creek Allotment. This map is for informational purposes only. It does not constitute a contract or any other legal instrument. The Bureau of Land Management is not responsible for any errors or omissions on this map. The map is not to be used for any other purpose without the express written consent of the Bureau of Land Management, Ely District Office.

Scale: 1 inch = 1 mile

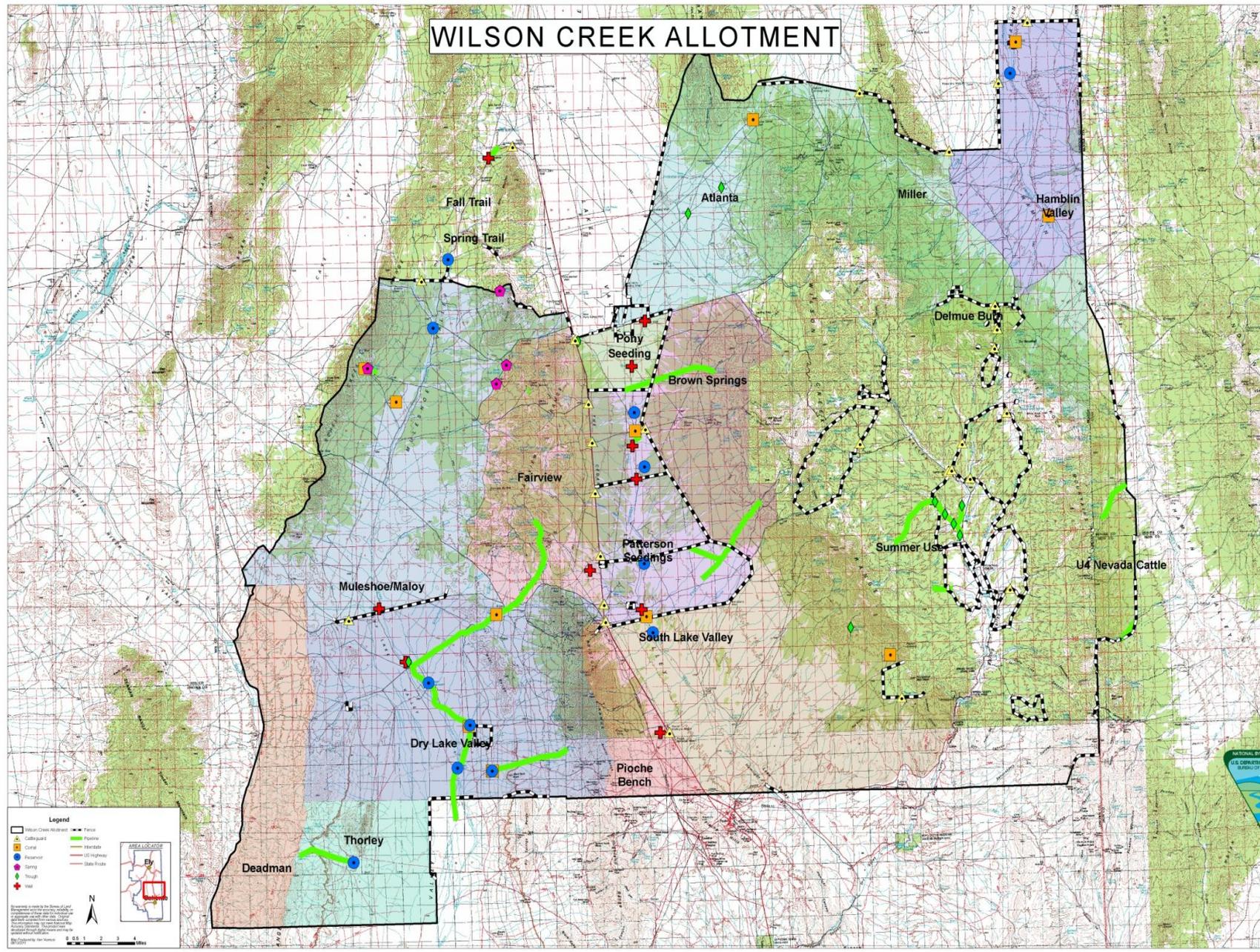
AREA LOCATOR

BLM

Ely District Office



WILSON CREEK ALLOTMENT



Legend

Wilson Creek Allotment	Pipeline
Caltagard	Interstate
Reservoir	US Highway
Spring	State Route
Well	

Approved to publish by the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, on 05/11/2011. This map is a reproduction of a map published by the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, on 05/11/2011. The map is a reproduction of a map published by the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, on 05/11/2011. The map is a reproduction of a map published by the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, on 05/11/2011.

Scale: 0 0.5 1 2 Miles

DOMINO EFFECT

- The sustainable number of cattle in this valley is directly linked to the number of cattle using our summer, spring, and fall allotments.
- More than 24,000 AUMs would be affected if spring, summer, and fall AUMs are also taken into consideration.
- Not only would the Dry Lake Valley water rights be affected with less numbers to show beneficial use by cattle which the area could no longer sustain, the water rights in our other grazing areas would be detrimentally affected without the larger herds to prove beneficial use. Currently, we own water rights, vested and certificated, to over 140 springs, wells, and reservoirs.

- With the vastly decimated cattle herd, we would also lose the large number of grazing rights to the vast tract of land situated inside the Wilson Creek Allotment, which contains almost one million acres.
- Currently, there are also 21,503 acres of private land inside the allotment. If ranchers were forced out of business, this land would be taxed at a much higher tax bracket that ranchers could no longer afford.
- Would SNWA, the BLM, or the State Water Engineer then become responsible for reimbursing all ranchers along the GWD Project pathway for their extreme losses or would it just be labeled a “taking”?
- Would we be reimbursed for the numerous range improvements, including over 60 miles of pipelines, over 300 miles of fences, 10 windmills, over 20 troughs, 30+reservoirs, 20 corrals, over 31,000 acres of seedings, and others?

- Adverse social and economic impacts would occur.
- Lincoln County is an economically depressed area, and the ranching industry is a vital element to the economy since it represents one of the main commercial activities in the area. The ranches constitute a major portion of the tax base and use the local businesses for support services. Lincoln County cannot afford another hit to its already struggling economy.
- The valleys of Dry, Cave, and Delemar also host a variety of other key economic activities that support this depressed area.
- Hunting, along with the business it brings to local establishments, plays a big part in the economy. Currently there are over 25 local master and sub guides and at least that many nonresident guides who earn a living and contribute greatly to the local economy by hunting in Units 222, 223, and 241, which represent some of the best hunting areas in the state and which include elk, mule deer, antelope, and big horn sheep and various game birds.

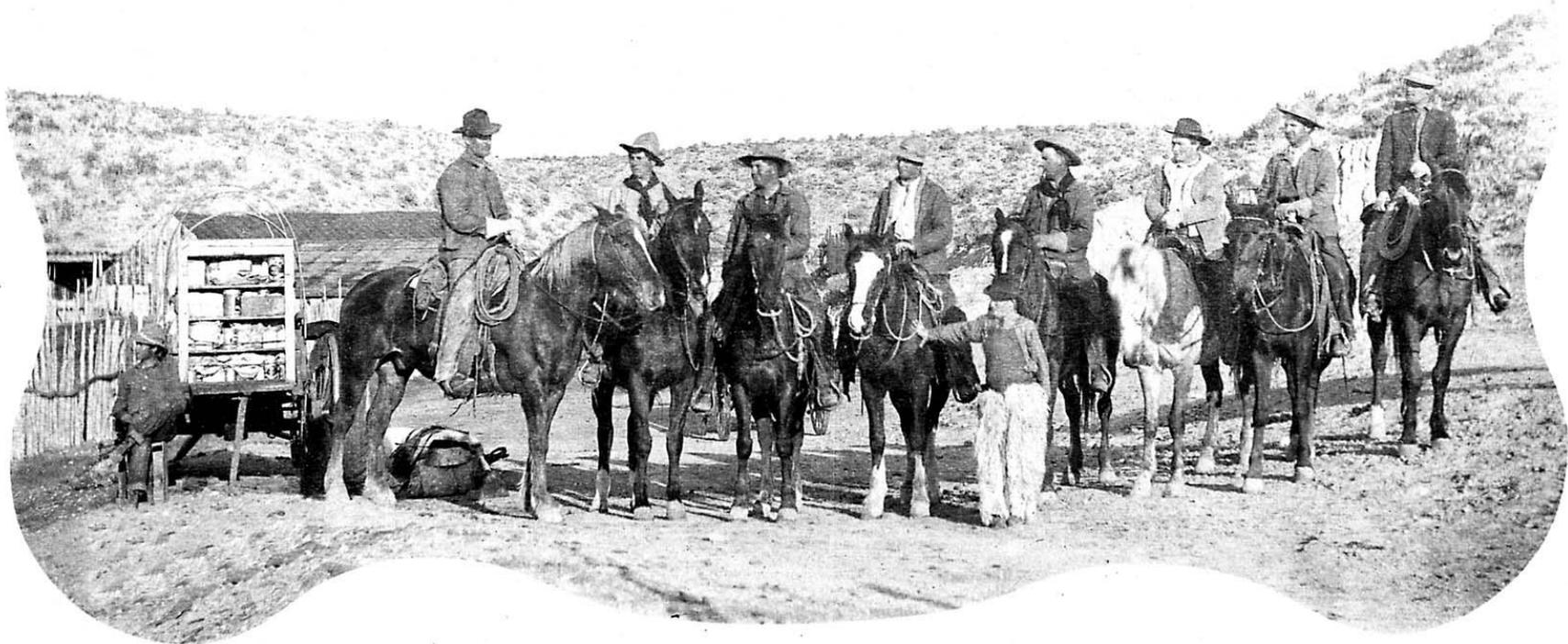
- These three valleys also are home to the congressionally designated Silver State Trail, which is a 300-mile OHV (off-highway vehicle) pathway put into place by Public Law 108-424 – the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act. This trail runs north from US Highway 93 in Delamar, makes a huge loop through the Chief, Highland, and Fairview Ranges, turns around in the Schell Creek Range on the edge of Cave Valley, and loops back to the south through the South Schell Creek Mountains and the North Pahrocs. Each year, people from across the United States use this trail and other roads in the valleys to view the surrounding historic mining towns and sites, wildlife, old ranching structures, and wild horses.
- Currently there are at least two mining companies performing exploratory drilling in the valleys, particularly those I have observed in Dry Lake Valley.
- With these economic activities comes the ripple effect - - business to grocery stores, gas stations, motels, and other support services, along with the employment these businesses provide to others.

- Permittees in Dry Lake Valley are among some of the oldest and largest ranches in Lincoln County and have been in the ranching business for almost 150 years. Presently, we have ten heirs to our ranch who will continue our family's legacy. The concerns and risks related to this project could change our way of life forever. Not only would it destroy our livelihood, but it would also greatly affect our quality of life, our valued rural lifestyle, and our heritage.

- Is it fair to totally destroy two counties so that another might prosper? The detrimental effects that could result from this project, as illustrated in the BLMs Executive Summary, could devastate this entire portion of rural Nevada.
- The mission of the Nevada Division of Water Resources is to conserve, protect, manage and enhance the State's water resources. We urge you to deny the amount of water requested by SNWA for this pipeline so that future generations might enjoy some of the most beautiful assets this state has to offer.
- For over a hundred and fifty years, the ranchers in these counties have been excellent stewards of the land, because it, in essence, is their livelihood. Please let us continue to care for and love this land and water and to continue to operate a ranch that took five lifetimes to build.

Dry Lake Round Up 1910





Dry Lake Round Up 2010



SEVENTH GENERATION ROWDY

