



# **APPENDIX F**

## **WILDERNESS AND WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS**



This page is intentionally blank.

## F.1 DESCRIPTIONS OF CURRENT WILDERNESS AREAS AND WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

This section provides additional information on the Wilderness Areas and Wilderness Study Areas that occur within or in close proximity to the NTTR airspace boundaries. Total acreage for each Wilderness Area and Wilderness Study Area is provided in each table along with the agency responsible for its management.

### F.1.1 Wilderness Study Areas

Table F-1 and Table F-2 list all designated Wilderness Areas in the Study Area. Agencies responsible for managing these areas are required to develop and implement Wilderness Management Plans. The tables list the associated Wilderness Management Plan for each Wilderness Area.

**Table F-1. Wilderness Areas Located Within NTTR Airspace Boundaries**

Name	Acres	Management Agency	Wilderness Management Plan
Worthington Mountain	30,664	BLM Ely Field Office	Weepah Spring Wilderness and Worthington Mountains Wilderness – Wilderness Management Plan <sup>1</sup>
Weepah Spring	51,480		
Big Rocks	12,997	BLM Ely Field Office	Big Rocks Wilderness, Mount Irish Wilderness, and South Pahroc Range Wilderness – Wilderness Management Plan <sup>2</sup>
Mount Irish	28,334		
South Pahroc Range	25,800		
Delamar Mountains	111,328	BLM Ely Field Office	Delamar Mountains Wilderness, Meadow Valley Range Wilderness, and Mormon Mountain Wilderness – Wilderness Management Plan <sup>3</sup>
Meadow Valley Range	123,488		
Mormon Mountains	157,938		
Arrow Canyon	27,530	BLM Las Vegas Field Office	Arrow Canyon Wilderness – Wilderness Management Plan <sup>4</sup>
Clover Mountains	85,748	BLM Ely Field Office	Clover Mountains Wilderness and Tunnel Spring Wilderness – Wilderness Management Plan <sup>5</sup>
Tunnel Spring	5,371		
Cougar Canyon	10,409	BLM St. George Field Office	Wilderness Management Plans not available
Slaughter Creek	3,901	BLM St. George Field Office	
Doc's Pass	17,294	BLM St. George Field Office	

<sup>1</sup> (Bureau of Land Management, 2011); <sup>2</sup> (Bureau of Land Management, 2007); <sup>3</sup> (Bureau of Land Management, 2009); <sup>4</sup> (Bureau of Land Management, 2013a); <sup>5</sup> (Bureau of Land Management, 2010)

**Table F-2. Wilderness Areas Located in Proximity to the NTTR Airspace Boundaries**

Name	Management Agency	Acres	Wilderness Management Plan
Parsnip Peak	BLM Ely Field Office	43,693	Fortification Range Wilderness, Parsnip Peak Wilderness, and White Rock Range Wilderness – Wilderness Management Plan <sup>1</sup>
White Rock Range		24,413	
Red Mountain	BLM St. George Field Office	20,490	Wilderness Management Plan not available
Beaver Dam Mountain	BLM Arizona Strip Field Office	15,000	Wilderness Management Plan – Paiute and Beaver Dam Mountains <sup>2</sup>
	BLM Kanab Field Office	3,667	
Lime Canyon	BLM Las Vegas Field Office	23,233	Jumbo Springs Wilderness and Lime Canyon Wilderness – Wilderness Management Plan <sup>3</sup>
Muddy Mountains	BLM Las Vegas Field Office	44,498	Muddy Mountains Wilderness – Wilderness Management Plan <sup>4</sup>
	NPS Lake Mead National Recreation Area	3,521	
La Madre Mountain	BLM Las Vegas Field Office	27,879	La Madre Mountain Wilderness and Rainbow Mountain Wilderness – Wilderness Management Plan <sup>5</sup>
	USFS Intermountain Region Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest	18,714	
	NPS Lake Mead National Recreation Area	26,250	

<sup>1</sup> (Bureau of Land Management, 2008); <sup>2</sup> (Bureau of Land Management, 1990); <sup>3</sup> (Bureau of Land Management, 2013b); <sup>4</sup> (Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service, 2007); <sup>5</sup> (Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service, 2013)

### F.1.2 Aircraft Operations above Wilderness Areas

Wilderness Management Plans for Weepah Spring, Worthington Mountains, Delamar Mountains, Meadow Valley Range, Mormon Mountain and Arrow Canyon recognize that solitude may be impacted by military aircraft operations in the airspace above the Wilderness Area and emergency military operations (Bureau of Land Management, 2011; Bureau of Land Management, 2009; Bureau of Land Management, 2013a). In addition, the Wilderness Management Plan for Clover Mountains and Tunnel Spring reported that aircraft noise and sonic booms from military operations can be heard from within the wilderness (Bureau of Land Management, 2010) and aircraft flyovers from Nellis Air Force Base, Creech Air Force Base, and NTTR are considered to occur frequently over the Arrow Canyon Wilderness Area (Bureau of Land Management, 2013a). However, BLM determined that outstanding opportunities for solitude would be largely unaffected and opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation would remain outstanding throughout wilderness.

Some Wilderness Management Plans for Wilderness Areas outside the NTTR airspace boundaries discuss military operations in general, stating military training exercises would not occur within the Wilderness Areas. Military operations are categorized as emergency and non-emergency incidents with guidelines on how both of those

scenarios would be managed within the Wilderness Areas. However, no impacts to solitude from overflights were identified for any of these areas.

### F.1.3 Wilderness Study Areas

Wilderness Study Areas and associated acreage were obtained directly from the BLM website. This information is summarized in Table F-3 and Table F-4.

**Table F-3. Wilderness Study Areas<sup>1</sup> Located Within NTTR Airspace Boundaries**

Name	Management Agency	Total Acres	Acres Recommended for Wilderness	Acres Not Recommended for Wilderness
South Reveille <sup>2</sup>	BLM Battle Mountain Field Office	106,200	33,000	73,200
Kawich <sup>3</sup>	BLM Battle Mountain Field Office	54,320	0	54,320
Palisade Mesa <sup>4</sup>	BLM Battle Mountain Field Office	99,550	66,110	33,440
The Wall <sup>5</sup>	BLM Battle Mountain Field Office	38,000	30,320	7,680

<sup>1</sup> (Bureau of Land Management, 2016a); <sup>2</sup> (Bureau of Land Management, 2016b); <sup>3</sup> (Bureau of Land Management, 2016c); <sup>4</sup> (Bureau of Land Management, 2016d); <sup>5</sup> (Bureau of Land Management, 2016e)

**Table F-4. Wilderness Study Areas<sup>1</sup> Located in Proximity to the NTTR Airspace Boundaries**

Name	Management Agency	Total Acres	Acres Recommended for Wilderness	Acres Not Recommended for Wilderness
Riordan's Well <sup>1</sup>	BLM Ely Field Office	57,002	Not available	Not available
Rawhide Mountain <sup>2</sup>	BLM Battle Mountain Field Office	64,360	0	64,360
Grapevine Mountains <sup>3</sup>	BLM Battle Mountain Field Office	66,800	23,150	43,650
Mount Stirling <sup>4</sup>	BLM Las Vegas Field Office	9,650	50,682	19,050
Resting Springs <sup>5</sup>	BLM Las Vegas Field Office	3,850	0	3,850

<sup>1</sup> (Bureau of Land Management, 2016a); <sup>2</sup> (Bureau of Land Management, 2016f); <sup>3</sup> (Bureau of Land Management, 2016g); <sup>4</sup> (Bureau of Land Management, 2016h); <sup>5</sup> (Bureau of Land Management, 2016i)

### F.1.4 Wilderness Study Areas Removed from Consideration

As discussed in Section 3.5.1.3 of the LEIS, eight WSAs are no longer being considered for wilderness and were released for uses other than wilderness. In addition, Congress released portions of some WSAs for uses other than wilderness, while designating the remaining areas as Wilderness. It is assumed that reasons for removing these areas for wilderness consideration were based on BLM's recommendations in the Nevada BLM Statewide Wilderness Report (Bureau of Land Management, 1991). Each of those areas are listed below along with a summary of the justification for recommending the areas for non-wilderness.

Evergreen ABC – 2,694 acres recommended for non-wilderness (Public Law [P.L.] 108-424 – Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2004):

- Small size (less than 5,000 acres)

- Conflicts with potential utility developments
- Lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude
- No interesting destinations and focal points of interest for primitive recreation
- Limited opportunities for horseback riding, hiking and nature study
- Resource value for potential development of utilities outweighs the area's limited wilderness values

Fish & Wildlife No. 1, 2, and 3 – 50,334 acres recommended for non-wilderness (P.L. 108-424 – Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2004):

- Conflicts with other potential resource uses and manageability concerns
- Wilderness values not considered high enough quality in comparison to other WSA's in the Las Vegas area
- Naturalness impacted by several signs of man
  - Vehicle trails from off-road travel
  - Nevada DOT materials pit right-of-way located in northern area
  - Topography consists of an open bajada that allows ready accessibility to vehicles
- Solitude opportunities similar to those afforded by thousands of other acres in Clark County
  - Lacks intrinsic values unique to the area
  - Minimal topographic screening
  - Close proximity to and influence of outside sights and sounds associated with utility corridors, abandoned sand and gravel operations, and Highway 93
- Even without wilderness designation, the quality and level of values found in the WSAs are not expected to significantly change

Garrett Buttes – 11,835 acres recommended for non-wilderness (P.L. 107-282 – Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002):

- Wilderness values not considered to be of a quality to merit inclusion in the NWPS
- Several site-specific signs of man, primarily rangeland improvements and wildlife developments which impacts naturalness
- Solitude opportunities in this WSA are similar to those afforded by thousands of acres of land adjacent to the WSA.
- Does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation

Nellis ABC – 5,718 acres recommended for non-wilderness (P.L. 107-282 – Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002):

- Lack of wilderness values
- Small size limits opportunities for solitude
- Lack of topographic screening
- Outstanding opportunities for primitive types of recreation are unavailable as interesting destinations and focal points of interest are absent from the WSA
- Conflicts with utility and rail line developments

Pine Creek – 2,357 acres recommended for non-wilderness (P.L. 107-282 – Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002):

- Majority of Pine Creek WSA was recommended for wilderness and included in the La Madre Mountains Wilderness Area designation
- Smaller area not recommended as wilderness due to ongoing and projected off-road vehicle use in the area

Quail Springs – 12,145 acres recommended for non-wilderness (P.L. 107-282 – Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002):

- Wilderness values are not considered to be of a quality to merit the area's inclusion in the NWPS
- Solitude opportunities are limited to a small area and are similar to other lands adjacent to this WSA
- Conflicts with utility and rail line development activities
- Does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation

Portions of Arrow Canyon (P.L. 107-282 – Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002):

- Wilderness values not considered to be of quality and continuity to merit inclusion in the NWPS
- Naturalness impacted by gradual incursion of human activity around the perimeter
- Short, narrow canyons and ridges, along with high recreation uses provide only limited solitude opportunities

Portions of Muddy Mountains (P.L. 107-282 – Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002):

- Management difficulties associated with mineral development along the southwest boundary and accessibility to off-road vehicles
- Potential influence of external mining activities may decrease quality of wilderness experience

- Increased interest in development of silica and gypsum resources

Portions of McCullough Mountains (P.L. 107-282 – Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002):

- Wilderness values not considered to be of high enough quality in comparison to similar WSAs in the area
- Several signs of man evident throughout the area, primarily vehicle trails from off-road vehicles
- No significant wildlife species, habitats, or scientific and educational values that would benefit from wilderness designation
- Potential for future development and expansion of sand and gravel operations and mining claims
- Lack of topographic features that would support solitude

---

## F.2 REFERENCES

Bureau of Land Management. (1990, June). *Final Wilderness Management Plan - Paiute and Beaver Dam Mountains*. Arizona Strip District, Cedar City District, and Shivwits and Dixie Resource Areas .

Bureau of Land Management. (1991, October). *Nevada BLM Statewide Wilderness Report, Volume V Las Vegas District*. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Bureau of Land Management. (2007, December 13). *Big Rocks Wilderness, Mount Irish Wilderness, South Pahroc Range Wilderness - Final Wilderness Management Plan and Environmental Assessment*. Ely District Office.

Bureau of Land Management. (2008, December). *Fortification Range Wilderness, Parsnip Peak Wilderness, and White Rock Range Wilderness - Final Wilderness Management Plan and Environmental Assessment*. Nevada State Office.

Bureau of Land Management. (2009, December 16). *Delamar Mountains Wilderness, Meadow Valley Range Wilderness, Mormon Mountains Wilderness - Wilderness Management Plan and Environmental Assessment*. Ely District Office.

Bureau of Land Management. (2010, November). *Clover Mountains Wilderness and Tunnel Spring Wilderness - Wilderness Management Plan and Environmental Assessment*. BLM Ely District Office.

- Bureau of Land Management. (2011, October 26). *Weepah Springs Wilderness and Worthington Mountains Wilderness - Wilderness Management Plan and Environmental Assessment*. Ely District Office.
- Bureau of Land Management. (2013a, October 24). *Arrow Canyon Wilderness - Final Wilderness Management Plan and Environmental Assessment*. Las Vegas, Nevada: Southern Nevada District Office, Las Vegas Field Office.
- Bureau of Land Management. (2013b, October 24). *Jumbo Springs Wilderness and Lime Canyon Wilderness - Final Wilderness Management Plan and Environmental Assessment*. Las Vegas, NV: BLM Las Vegas Field Office.
- Bureau of Land Management. (2016a, August 10). *Wilderness Study Areas*. Retrieved October 17, 2016, from Bureau of Land Management: [https://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/prog/blm\\_special\\_areas/wsas0.html](https://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/prog/blm_special_areas/wsas0.html)
- Bureau of Land Management. (2016b, August 10). *South Reveille Wilderness Study Area*. Retrieved December 13, 2016, from Bureau of Land Management: [https://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/nv/field\\_offices/battle\\_mountain\\_field/wsas.Par.61717.File.dat/Reveille.pdf](https://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/nv/field_offices/battle_mountain_field/wsas.Par.61717.File.dat/Reveille.pdf)
- Bureau of Land Management. (2016c, August 10). *Kawich Wilderness Study Area*. Retrieved December 13, 2016, from Bureau of Land Management: [https://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/nv/field\\_offices/battle\\_mountain\\_field/wsas.Par.86659.File.dat/Kawich.pdf](https://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/nv/field_offices/battle_mountain_field/wsas.Par.86659.File.dat/Kawich.pdf)
- Bureau of Land Management. (2016d, August 10). *Palisade Mesa Wilderness Study Area*. Retrieved December 13, 2016, from Bureau of Land Management: [https://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/nv/field\\_offices/battle\\_mountain\\_field/wsas.Par.43286.File.dat/Palisade%20Mesa.pdf](https://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/nv/field_offices/battle_mountain_field/wsas.Par.43286.File.dat/Palisade%20Mesa.pdf)
- Bureau of Land Management. (2016e, August 10). *The Wall Wilderness Study Area*. Retrieved December 13, 2016, from Bureau of Land Management: [https://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/nv/field\\_offices/battle\\_mountain\\_field/wsas.Par.88682.File.dat/The%20Wall.pdf](https://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/nv/field_offices/battle_mountain_field/wsas.Par.88682.File.dat/The%20Wall.pdf)
- Bureau of Land Management. (2016f, August 10). *Rawhide Mountain Wilderness Study Area*. Retrieved December 13, 2016, from Bureau of Land Management: [https://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/nv/field\\_offices/battle\\_mountain\\_field/wsas.Par.2323.File.dat/Rawhide%20Mt.pdf](https://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/nv/field_offices/battle_mountain_field/wsas.Par.2323.File.dat/Rawhide%20Mt.pdf)

- Bureau of Land Management. (2016g, August 10). *Grapevine Mountains Wilderness Study Area*. Retrieved December 13, 2016, from Bureau of Land Management: [https://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/nv/field\\_offices/battle\\_mountain\\_field/wsas.Par.33816.File.dat/Grapevine%20Mt.pdf](https://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/nv/field_offices/battle_mountain_field/wsas.Par.33816.File.dat/Grapevine%20Mt.pdf)
- Bureau of Land Management. (2016h). *Mount Stirling Wilderness Study Area*. Retrieved December 13, 2016, from Bureau of Land Management: [https://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/nv/field\\_offices/las\\_vegas\\_field\\_office/wilderness\\_maps/wsas.Par.48038.File.dat/Mount%20Stirling.pdf](https://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/nv/field_offices/las_vegas_field_office/wilderness_maps/wsas.Par.48038.File.dat/Mount%20Stirling.pdf)
- Bureau of Land Management. (2016i). *Resting Springs Wilderness Study Area*. Retrieved January 11, 2016, from Bureau of Land Management: [https://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/nv/field\\_offices/las\\_vegas\\_field\\_office/wilderness\\_maps/wsas.Par.37684.File.dat/RestingSprings.pdf](https://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/nv/field_offices/las_vegas_field_office/wilderness_maps/wsas.Par.37684.File.dat/RestingSprings.pdf)
- Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service. (2007, April). *Muddy Mountains Wilderness - Final Wilderness Management Plan and Environmental Assessment*. Clark County, Nevada.
- Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service. (2013, December 17). *La Madre Mountain Wilderness and Rainbow Mountain Wilderness - Final Wilderness Management Plan and Environmental Assessment*. BLM Southern Nevada District Office and USFS Intermountain Region.