



**US Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Winnemucca District, Nevada**

Burning Man Event Special Recreation Permit
Environmental Impact Statement



**ASSESSMENT OF ECONOMICS, SOCIAL VALUES,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
MARCH 2019**

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APPENDICES

A	Socioeconomic Interview Material and Records
B	Methods for Quantified Economic Analysis

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Full Phrase

BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BRC	Black Rock City
CAB	Community Advisory Board
CEQ	Council of Environmental Quality
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
MEA	Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
NCA	National Conservation Area
NDOT	Nevada Department of Transportation
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
PLPT	Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
SR	State Route
SRP	Special Recreation Permit

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Assessment of Economics, Social Values, and Environmental Justice

I.1 INTRODUCTION

Black Rock City, LLC (BRC) has applied to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for a ten-year permit to hold the Burning Man Event on BLM-managed land. This annual event takes place in Nevada's Black Rock Desert Playa (playa), about 120 miles north-northeast of Reno at the end of August, culminating Labor Day weekend. The Special Recreation Permit (SRP) granted in 2017 allowed for approximately 70,000 participants, not including support staff and volunteers. It stipulated services and safeguards that BRC would implement to maintain the health and safety of participants, protect the environment, and mitigate impacts on local communities. BRC's application requests a permit that would cover a period from 2019 to 2028. The BLM is studying the effects of the granting this permit through an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This assessment provides an overview of existing conditions associated with economics and social values for affected areas in the vicinity of the Burning Man Event. In addition, the direct and indirect impacts of the five alternatives on the affected environment are examined. Finally, local population demographics are reviewed to identify low income, minority, and tribal populations for environmental justice consideration, and the potential for the Alternative A (Proposed Action) and alternatives to result in significant adverse impacts on these populations is examined. Where appropriate, this analysis incorporates by references the analysis conducted for other resources and resources uses as provided in Chapter 4 of the EIS.

I.2 DIRECT AND INDIRECT IMPACTS ASSESSMENT AREA

The Burning Man Event is located in Pershing County, Nevada. The majority of participants access the event via I-80 from the west, to State Route (SR) 447, passing through several communities including Reno, Sparks, Gerlach, and Nixon in Washoe County, and Fernley in Lyon County. A smaller number of participants arriving from the east and south pass through Fallon, in Churchill County, Winnemucca in Humboldt County, or Lovelock in Pershing County. Direct social and economic impacts, and operational expenditures to provide services at the event, occur in these communities and are associated with participants traveling to or from the event. The impact analysis associated with economics and social values, especially quantitative analyses, is focused on these areas. Therefore, the Assessment Area has been defined as the Five-County area of Pershing, Washoe, Lyon, Churchill, and Humboldt County (See **Figure I**). Social and economic data and information is primarily provided at the county level. Specific information is also provided for the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe (PLPT). Information is presented for communities where available. Specific cities and unincorporated communities discussed are as follows:

- Reno
- Sparks
- Fernley
- Wadsworth
- Gerlach
- Empire
- Lovelock
- Nixon

For the purpose of this analysis, all those who attend that event as a volunteer, BRC staff, or ticketed attendee are collectively termed participants. Participants do not include agency staff.

Participants to the Burning Man Event come from around the US and the world, with the largest number of participants from California. In addition, some vendors and service providers at the event are from outside the Five-County Assessment Area. As a result, social and economic impacts extend beyond the Assessment Area and are discussed at the state and regional level where appropriate.

Information on current economic conditions in the Assessment Area is provided based on publicly available data sources including but not limited to US Census Bureau, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and state and county agencies. In addition, event participant spending data within the Assessment Area was included from the 2017 BRC Census (2017b), and data on Assessment Area event operational expenditures were provided by BRC (2017a). The BRC Census is a summary of data collected from a random sampling of participants and an online survey. During the event, BRC Census volunteers administer a short socio-demographic survey to randomly-selected participants who agree to participate. From 2013-2017, between 4 and 10 percent of the BRC population participated in this random sampling process. The online BRC Census is available after the event, and in 2017 approximately 13 percent of participants filled out the online survey (BRC 2017b).

Information on current social values was collected from socioeconomic interviews conducted with local stakeholders, during public scoping, and from new articles about the Burning Man Event, as well as from the BRC Census. Analysis of regional populations for environmental justice consideration was based on US Census Bureau poverty and ethnic and racial data for area communities and counties.

Effects analysis includes analysis of the above economic, social, and environmental justice data sources based on the proposed changes to the event.

1.3 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS AREA

The cumulative effects area is anticipated to be the same as the direct and indirect impacts Assessment Area.

1.4 REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the BLM is required to analyze the “physical, biological, economic, and other sciences.” NEPA also requires federal agencies to “[ensure] the integrated use of the natural and social sciences...in planning and decision making.” Specific direction for inclusion of nonmarket analysis is addressed in instructional memorandum 2013-131, Economic Methods for Estimating Nonmarket Environmental Values.

1.5 ECONOMICS

1.5.1 Affected Environment

The economics section includes a characterization of Assessment Area employment and income, and key economic sectors that may be affected by the Burning Man Event. In addition, it includes descriptions of government fiscal conditions and revenue related to the event, and associated demand, capacity, and cost of community services.

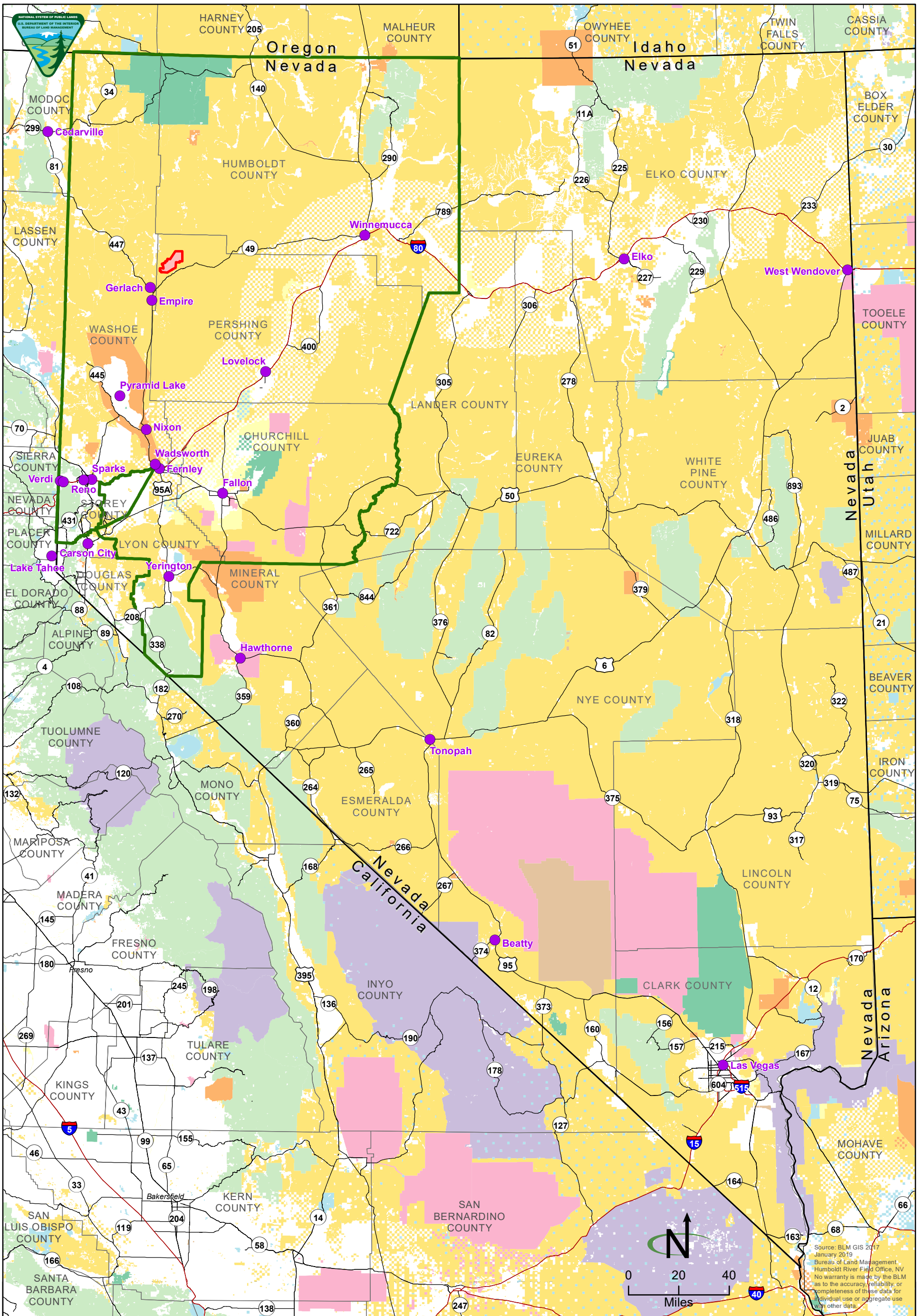


Figure 1
Socioeconomic Assessment Area

- | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Economics, environmental justice, and social values assessment area | Bureau of Land Management | Department of Defense | State or regional |
| Alternatives analysis area | Private (includes county and city) | Bureau of Indian Affairs | Other Federal |
| Participant stop | Forest Service | Fish and Wildlife Service | |
| | National Park Service | Bureau of Reclamation | |



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Event economic contributions are examined in two major categories, 1) spending by participants, and 2) operational expenditures by BRC. Spending from both categories generates economic activity, as this money is spent and re-spent in the economy, supporting jobs and income for others not directly engaged in Burning Man. Data on participant spending are from the 2017 BRC Census, and data on operational expenditures were provided by BRC. The assessment of the economic contributions of both participant spending and operational expenditures is focused on the Assessment Area.

Assessment Area Economic Baseline Conditions

Median household income and per-capita income are two measures of the economic stability of an area, when compared with that at the state or national level. In the Assessment Area in 2016, median household income and per-capita income were above the state average in Washoe and Humboldt Counties, and below the state average in Churchill, Lyon, and Pershing Counties, and the PLPT Reservation. At the municipality level, median household and per capita income are highest in Reno and Sparks and lowest in Nixon and Wadsworth (**Table I**, below).

Table I
Socioeconomic Assessment Area 2016 Income Overview

Geographic Area	Median Household Income (2012-2016 \$)	Per-capita Income (2012-2016 \$)
Churchill County	45,368	23,951
Humboldt County	67,295	27,580
Lyon County	49,007	23,519
Fernley	51,826	22,846
Pershing County	45,192	17,631
Lovelock	33,636	18,760
Washoe County	54,955	29,942
Gerlach	N/A	22,556
Nixon	26,736	13,821
Reno	48,815	27,811
Sparks	54,196	27,039
Wadsworth	28,750	14,863
Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation	30,728	15,682
Nevada	53,094	27,253

Source: US Census Bureau 2016

Note: 2012-2016 American Community Survey data. Inflation-adjusted income in 2016 dollars. N/A represents no available data

Employment trends in the Assessment Area have generally followed state averages. Of Assessment Area counties, only Lyon County had an unemployment rate consistently higher than the state unemployment rate, reaching a ten year high of 17.5 percent average unemployment during 2010. Unemployment rates in the Assessment Area counties over each of the past 10 years are displayed in **Table 2**, below. Annual unemployment rates are not available for individual municipalities or the PLPT Reservation from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Based on 2012-2016 data collected for the US Census Bureau, some of these geographic areas have higher unemployment than that of the state. For example, Nixon had an estimated unemployment rate of 26.8 percent, Wadsworth 20.1 percent, and the PLPT Reservation, 19.5 percent for 2012-2016 data as compared to the state rate of 9.5 percent over the same period (see **Table 3**).

Table 2
County Unemployment Rate (percent)

Year	Churchill County	Humboldt County	Lyon County	Pershing County	Washoe County	Nevada
2016	5.4	5.4	7.4	5.9	5.0	5.7
2015	6.9	5.9	9.3	6.8	6.3	6.8
2014	7.6	6.3	10.2	7.2	7.6	7.9
2013	9.2	6.2	12.5	8.8	9.4	9.6
2012	11.0	6.6	14.8	9.8	11.0	11.2
2011	12.4	7.8	16.7	10.9	12.6	13.0
2010	12.4	8.7	17.5	10.7	12.9	13.5
2009	8.6	7.3	15.5	9.8	11.1	11.3
2008	6.0	4.9	9.8	7.0	6.8	6.7
2007	4.3	3.6	6.4	5.0	4.3	4.5

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics 2017

Table 3
Municipality Unemployment Rate (percent)

Geographic Area	Unemployment Rate 2012-2016 (percent)
Fernley	11.6
Lovelock	8.3
Gerlach	N/A
Nixon	26.8
Reno	7.6
Sparks	9.1
Wadsworth	20.4
Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation	19.5
Nevada	9.5

Source: US Census Bureau 2016

Note: Inflation-adjusted income in 2016 dollars. N/A represents no available data. Note that for smaller population sizes, there is a high large margin of error for unemployment data.

Spending and employment related to participant expenditures for the Burning Man Event are most likely to be related to arts, entertainment, and recreation and the accommodation and food-services economic sectors. Impacts can also occur in transportation industries. Indirect impacts could occur throughout economic sectors. Operational expenditures by BRC for the event can also include spending other sectors such as waste management, transportation and warehousing, as well as contributions to healthcare and utilities sectors.

The current distribution of employment in the Five-County Assessment Area is shown in **Table 4**. Percent employment in the arts, entertainment, and recreation sector ranged from a low of 1.7 percent in Humboldt County to a high of 5.5 percent in Lyon County. In the accommodation and food services sector, employment ranged from a low of 5.4 percent employment in Lyon County to a high of 11.7 percent in Washoe County. Administrative support and waste management ranges from a low of 3.5 percent of employment in Humboldt County to 7.1 percent in Washoe County, while transportation and warehousing represent a low of 3.2 percent of employment in Humboldt County to a high of 6.1 percent in Churchill County.

Table 4
Employment by Industry

Industry	Churchill County	Humboldt County	Lyon County	Pershing County	Washoe County	Nevada
Total Employment	11,857	9,960	16,764	2,362	283,283	1,714,063
Farm	806 6.8%	579 5.8%	816 4.9%	232 9.8%	543 0.2%	5,664 0.3%
Forestry, fishing, and related activities	D -	D -	192 1.1%	D -	257 0.1%	1,614 0.1%
Mining Quarrying and Oil and Gas Extraction	137 1.2%	1,958 19.7%	383 2.3%	570 24.1%	1,995 0.7%	19,510 1.1%
Utilities	95 0.8%	162 1.6%	64 0.4%	0 0.0%	470 0.2%	4,444 0.3%
Construction	643 5.4%	465 4.7%	1,058 6.3%	D -	16,888 6.0%	92,220 5.4%
Manufacturing	528 4.5%	303 3.0%	2,297 13.7%	D -	13,824 4.9%	49,395 2.9%
Wholesale trade	225 1.9%	170 1.7%	325 1.9%	D -	10,779 3.8%	43,932 2.6%
Retail trade	1,267 10.7%	1,172 11.8%	1,848 11.0%	204 8.6%	27,903 9.8%	175,386 10.2%
Transportation and warehousing	709 6.0%	318 3.2%	860 5.1%	D -	15,883 5.6%	76,256 4.4%
Information	103 0.9%	77 0.8%	84 0.5%	D -	2,942 1.0%	19,508 1.1%
Finance and Insurance	333 2.8%	120 1.2%	483 2.9%	34 1.4%	14,256 5.0%	85,487 5.0%
Real Estate, rental, and leasing	530 4.5%	262 2.6%	800 4.8%	36 1.5%	20,228 7.1%	102,536 6.0%
Professional, scientific and technical services	416 3.5%	D -	778 4.6%	54 2.3%	19,280 6.8%	96,007 5.6%
Management of companies and enterprises	D -	D -	74 0.4%	D -	3,813 1.3%	29,091 1.7%
Administrative Support and Waste Management	487 4.1%	350 3.5%	713 4.3%	D -	20,007 7.1%	123,207 7.2%
Educational Services	73 0.6%	D -	D -	D -	3,643 1.3%	17,099 1.0%
Healthcare and Social Assistance	1,005 8.5%	D -	D -	D -	26,376 9.3%	135,339 7.9%

Industry	Churchill County	Humboldt County	Lyon County	Pershing County	Washoe County	Nevada
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	482 4.1%	169 1.7%	919 5.5%	D -	8,543 3.0%	53,284 3.1%
Accommodation and Food Services	728 6.1%	1,058 10.6%	909 5.4%	D -	33,043 11.7%	325,961 19.0%
Other Services (except public administration)	637 5.4%	473 4.7%	1,105 6.6%	81 3.4%	13,358 4.7%	86,220 5.0%
Government and Government Enterprises	2,537 21.4%	1,547 15.5%	2,305 13.7%	746 31.6%	29,252 10.3%	171,903 10.0%

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis 2017

Note: employment for civilian population over age 16

Items with (D) are not reported by the BEA to avoid disclosure of confidential information, but the estimates for this item are included in the total employment.

Income in the arts, entertainment, and recreation and accommodation and food services sectors are often lower than overall average income and earnings. Current distribution of labor income by industry in the Five-County Assessment Area is shown in **Table 5**. In Assessment Area counties, the arts, entertainment, and recreation sector represented between 0.4 percent (Humboldt County) and 1.5 percent (Washoe and Churchill Counties) of total personal income and earnings. The accommodation and food services sector represented between 0.9 percent (Lyon County) and 4.6 percent (Washoe County) of total income and earnings). Income and earnings in sectors related to operational expenditures are also varied. For the administration and waste management sector, income and earnings are below overall averages, with a low of 1.0 percent of total income and earnings in Lyon County and a high of 3.0 percent in Washoe County. The transportation and warehousing sector earning represent that income in in these fields is similar to the overall average, with low of 3.2 percent of income and earnings in Humboldt County to a high of 6.1 percent in Churchill County.

Table 5
Personal Income and Earning by Industry

Industry	Churchill County	Humboldt County	Lyon County	Pershing County	Washoe County	Nevada
Total Personal Income	913,968	739,086	1,787,910	201,808	22,549,907	128,089,633
Farm	5,000 0.5%	8,749 1.2%	9,254 0.5%	11,150 5.5%	12,124 0.1%	91,873 0.0%
Forestry, fishing, and related activities	D -	D -	4,515 0.3%	D -	3,898 0.0%	23,194 0.0%
Mining Quarrying and Oil and Gas Extraction	2,351 0.3%	217,758 29.5%	20,292 1.1%	55,214 27.4%	19,748 0.1%	1,563,790 1.2%

Industry	Churchill County	Humboldt County	Lyon County	Pershing County	Washoe County	Nevada
Utilities	11,711 1.3%	23,419 3.5%	7,001 0.4%	0 0.0%	87,213 0.4%	620,920 0.5%
Construction	54,288 5.9%	32,427 4.4%	74,380 4.1%	D -	1,584,481 7.0%	6,184,511 4.8%
Manufacturing	37,454 4.1%	16,035 2.2%	139,313 7.8%	D -	916,782 4.1%	3,067,930 2.4%
Wholesale trade	13,187 1.4%	11,167 1.5%	14,960 0.8%	D -	746,635 3.3%	3,063,581 2.4%
Retail trade	32,731 3.6%	32,381 4.4%	41,805 2.3%	4,946 2.5%	953,396 4.2%	5,999,678 4.7%
Transportation and warehousing	59,160 6.5%	21,500 2.9%	38,090 2.1%	D -	832,320 3.7%	3,952,574 3.1%
Information	4,184 0.5%	3,454 0.5%	5,736 0.3%	D -	172,533 0.8%	1,534,583 1.2%
Finance and Insurance	6,138 0.7%	2,758 0.4%	6,983 0.4%	729 0.4%	665,821 3.0%	3,054,893 2.4%
Real Estate, rental, and leasing	5,222 0.6%	3,091 0.4%	8,813 0.5%	-154	-597,019	921,153 0.7%
Professional, scientific and technical services	14,472 1.6%	D -	27,031 1.5%	748 0.4%	1,376,432 6.1%	6,043,297 4.7%
Management of companies and enterprises	D -	D -	4,751 0.3%	D -	466,747 2.1%	3,570,016 2.9%
Administrative Support and Waste Management	22,512 2.5%	11,746 1.6%	18,259 1.0%	D -	677,429 3.0%	4,040,785 3.2%
Educational Services	2,434 0.3%	D -	D -	D -	106,396 0.5%	550,189 0.4%
Health Care and Social Assistance	52,390 5.7%	D -	D -	D -	1,638,795 7.3%	8,125,324 6.3%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	13,555 1.5%	3,052 0.4%	23,436 1.3%	D -	329,318 1.5%	2,424,518 1.9%
Accommodation and Food Services	15,005 1.6%	26,612 3.6%	15,481 0.9%	D D	1,035,659 4.6%	13,920,335 10.9%
Other Services (except public administration)	16,918 1.9%	17,703 2.4%	29,890 1.7%	2,407 1.2%	498,727 2.2%	2,990,096 2.3%
Government and Government Enterprises	198,653 21.7%	121,395 16.4%	152,897 8.6%	56,466 28.0%	2,540,128 11.3%	14,718,523 11.5%

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis 2017

Note: Income shown is for civilian population over age 16.

Items with (D) are not reported by the BEA to avoid disclosure of confidential information, but the estimates for this item are included in the total personal income amounts.

Dollar estimates are shown in thousands of dollars; 2016 dollars not adjusted for inflation.

Earnings is the sum of wage and salary disbursements, supplements to wages and salaries, and proprietors' income. When proprietors' income is negative and larger in absolute value than the sum of wage and salary disbursements and supplements to wage and salary disbursements then earnings will also be negative. Proprietors' income can also be negative, representing a loss, when production expenses are greater than gross output.

Event Economic Activity

The Burning Man Event includes direct and indirect spending in the Socioeconomic Assessment Area, throughout the region, in the State of Nevada. In the section below, spending on event operations and participant spending are examined.

Operational Spending

BRC provided data about their operational spending during 2017. This included expenditure information for the Burning Man Event itself such as vendor costs for waste disposal, potable water, an event fencing. In addition, operations expenditures include costs of other services that support the event, including property rentals such as those for warehousing event materials, and social contributions for local communities to support the BRC principles. Specific spending information was used in economic modeling but is proprietary. Of the total BRC reported spending on payments to vendors providing goods and services in support of the event, social contributions, and property rentals during 2017, about 47 percent was identified as being spent directly on goods and services (including vendors) in Nevada (BRC 2017a). Based on public documents from 2016 tax records, BRC spent an estimated \$20 million on total expenses, excluding payments for salary and benefits (discussed below) and permits and fees (accounted for in the fiscal analysis discussion). A portion of these expenses represent costs associated with directly operating the event. These expenses also include approximately 1.5 million in grants; and 3 million in legal, accounting, office expenses, royalties, interest, insurance and other general business expenses.

Based on publicly available data, BRC had 858 permanent and temporary employees in 2016 (BRC 2017c). Based on BRC provided information, it is estimated that approximately 10 permanent employees resided in Nevada, with the remaining employees living primarily in California. In addition to the goods and services spending described above, BRC also incurred \$12.5 million in labor expenditures (including salaries and other compensation) in 2016. Approximately 7,500 volunteers were identified as supporting the Burning Man Event in 2016 (BRC 2017c).

Participant Spending

Spending at the Burning Man Event itself is limited. One of the ten principles of Burning Man is gifting, and the event is run under a “gift economy”, where goods and services may be gifted to other attendees but are not sold or exchanged as in a traditional marketplace. Participants purchase essential goods and services prior to the event; the only goods sold at the event are ice and coffee, which are captured in the participant spending data.

Average participant spending data was obtained from the BRC Census (BRC 2017b). Participants were asked to report their total spending in Nevada to travel to and from the event, in categories including food, lodging, fun, fuel and survival supplies. Participants spent an average of \$666 in Nevada in 2017. Self-reported spending by category is included in **Table 6**, below. Location in which spending occurred was not reported in the survey, however, participants were requested to list all towns in which they stopped while traveling to or from the event. Approximately 86.5 percent of reported stops occurred in communities within the Five-County Assessment Area (see **Figure 1** and **Table 7**). Using areas stopped to approximate locations of spending, approximately \$576.66 per attendee would occur in the Assessment Area and the remaining \$89.94 would be spent elsewhere in Nevada.

Table 6
Average Participant Spending in Nevada (2017)

Category	Assessment Area*	Nevada Total
Food	\$151.38	\$175.00
Lodging	\$134.77	\$155.80
Fun	\$100.17	\$115.80
Fuel	\$97.23	\$112.40
Survival	\$93.07	\$107.60
Total	\$576.61	\$666.60

Source BRC 2017b

*Based on approximately 86.5 percent of participant stops within the Assessment Area

Table 7
Participant Stops (2017)

Location	Number of Participants Reporting Stops	Within Assessment Area (Y/N)
Reno	34,611	Y
Gerlach	10,011	Y
Fernley	8,623	Y
Sparks	5,635	Y
Empire	3,939	Y
Lake Tahoe	3,275	N
Las Vegas	2,874	N
Winnemucca	2,744	Y
Nixon	2,080	Y
Wadsworth	1,812	Y
Carson City	1,621	N
Fallon	1,409	Y
Pyramid Lake	1,165	Y
Tonopah	1,036	N
Elko	964	N
Cedarville	890	N
Beatty	620	N
Wendover	576	N
Hawthorne	466	N
Lovelock	515	Y
Boomtown	300	N
Verdi	152	N
Yerington	84	Y

Source: BRC 2017b

Assuming that reported stops correspond at least some degree with location of event spending, the highest levels of Assessment Area participant spending on supplies and lodging are likely to occur in Washoe County (particularly in the communities of Reno and Sparks), in Lyons County (Fernley), and to

some degree in Humboldt County (Winnemucca). While Empire and Gerlach in Washoe County also report a high number of participant stops, the limited retail and lodging opportunities in these areas likely result in a lower level of participant spending. Similarly, participant spending would also occur on the Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation in the communities of Wadsworth and Nixon, but these communities are also small in size and have more limited services as compared to some larger area communities.

Participants spent money both within and outside of the Assessment Area and Nevada to attend the event, with the majority of spending occurring outside of Nevada. Participants spent a median of \$1,500 total dollars to travel to and from the event, including fuel, food, lodging, airfare, supplies, but excluding the price of the ticket (BRC 2017b). Event spending ranges are displayed in **Table 8**. The average level of total spending may be substantially higher than the median. It is also possible that not all participant expenditures are captured in these data. For example, some participants may not view the cost for art installations and durable goods as supply or lodging expenses related to the event.

Table 8
Total Participant Spending (2017)

Spending Level	Percent of Attendees
\$0-250	2.2
\$250-500	5.6
\$500-1000	16.5
\$1000-2500	45.8
\$2500-5000	22.1
\$5000 +	7.8

Source: BRC 2017b

*Based on approximately 86.5 percent of participant stops within the Assessment Area

Fiscal Analysis and Demand and Capacity of Community Services

BLM Event Revenue

All SRPs are subject to use fees. BLM collects fees from BRC for the event as well as from vendors covered by SRPs. Per the regulations outlined in the BLM Recreation Permit and Fee Administration Handbook (H-2930-1), the Burning Man Event fee is based on a Commercial Use Fee equal to 3 percent of gross income generated by the permit. This amount includes 3 percent of BRC gross revenue as well as 3 percent of vendor gross revenue. Gross revenue fees are distributed to the BLM Black Rock Field Office. In 2017, the BLM’s commercial use fee collected from BRC was \$995,161.

In addition, BRC is responsible for compensating the BLM for actual costs of administering the SRP, including all direct and indirect costs, for labor and operations by BLM staff. This is known as the cost recovery fee. An indirect cost rate of approximately 20 percent, which fluctuates annually, is included in this fee, this represents payment to the BLM National Operations Center. Cost recovery fees collected in 2017 was \$2,503,453.

Local and State Government Revenue

Event participants likely affect government revenues in several ways, notably, due to taxes and revenue collected from spending by participants traveling to and from the event including tax on retail spending and motor vehicle fuel, lodging tax, as well as gambling revenue.

Event participants make taxable purchases of various items including water and food prior to arriving at the event, or after leaving the event. Taxes on these sales are collected and distributed at the state, county, and municipality level. The Nevada sales tax rate is 6.85 percent. Counties and cities in Nevada are allowed to charge an additional local sales tax on top of the Nevada state sales tax, as approved by voters or local legislatures. Sales tax in the Five-County Assessment Area ranges from 6.85 to 8.265 percent. **Table 9** shows the annual taxable sales in the Assessment Area counties and statewide for the 2010-11 to 2016-17 fiscal years (Nevada Department of Taxation 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017). In Washoe County and the state of Nevada overall, taxable sales have steadily increased since 2010. For other Assessment Area counties, sales have been more variable, Churchill and Humboldt had peak sales in 2012-13. Lyon and Pershing County had peak sales in 2017, but variation in sales in previous years. The specific level of sales tax revenue would depend on the location and amount of supplies purchased. Revenue associated with purchases by Burning Man Event participants would likely be highest in locations with retail stores along the most common travel routes, primarily Washoe and Lyon County, as well as Winnemucca in Humboldt County.

Table 9
Taxable Sales (2010–2017 in 1000\$)

County or State	Sales and Use Tax Rate	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Churchill	7.60%	249,111	320,188	387,570	252,675	283,497	282,998	309,285
Humboldt	6.850%	748,153	740,656	921,112	780,774	577,537	486,077	449,981
Lyon	7.100%	300,843	346,511	305,525	356,890	396,525	380,805	456,071
Pershing	7.100%	78,096	106,443	96,442	94,634	82,472	91,180	113,424,
Washoe	8.265%	5,282,935	5,522,605	5,824,726	6,370,684	6,817,589	7,550,467	7,989,009
State of Nevada	6.850%	39,935,011	42,954,750	45,203,408	47,440,345	50,347,536	52,788,295	56,547,742

Source: Nevada Department of Taxation 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012

Participants also may stay over in hotels or motels before or after the event, for which counties collect transient lodging taxes. Lodging tax rates are set at the city/county level. Due to proximity and availability of rooms, the largest impact is likely in Washoe County. Washoe County’s lodging tax rate is from 13.0 to 13.5 percent, with an additional surcharge of \$2 in Reno as of 2015. Taxable room revenue collected in Reno-Sparks for August and September is included in **Table 10**. August and September represent the highest annual taxable room rate revenue in the Reno-Sparks area, likely due to Burning Man as well as other events. For the 2016-2017 fiscal year, for example, revenue decreased to \$25,496,440 in October and was at an annual low of \$20,242,930 in January. Revenue increased over the spring and summer period of 2017, with a revenue of \$27,985,952 reported in March, increasing to revenue increased to \$28,917,716 in May, and \$35,443,798 for June. Similar trends were seen over other fiscal years.

Table 10
Reno-Sparks Taxable Room Revenues (2011–2017)

Month	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
August	27,369,572	29,376,209	32,130,756	32,403,508	34,091,992	36,868,031	44,034,254
September	26,789,879	27,213,720	25,870,198	27,164,225	34,288,906	37,851,442	41,647,114

Source: RSVCA 2017c

Note: includes all market segments, including hotels motels, long term rental, RV parks

While the specific amount of revenue attributable to the event is difficult to predict due to the other regional events that may impact room rate an occupancy over the same time period, it is likely the event has a significant impact. The Peppermill resort estimated a bump in revenue of approximately \$100,000 may be attributable to the event. Of this amount, taxes collected represent approximately 13 percent of room rate and an additional percentage of the resort fee (see Appendix A).

Participants traveling to and from the event purchase motor vehicle fuel in local communities. Fuel taxes are collected at the federal, state and county level. In Nevada, all areas include an 18.4 cents per gallon federal tax, an 18.455 cent per gallon state gasoline tax, and a county mandatory tax of 6.35 cents per gallon and an additional county option gas tax of tax of 0 to 9 cents per gallon. The optional county tax is 9 cents per gallon for all Assessment Area counties. These taxes help to fund road repairs. In addition, Washoe County currently has approved inflation indexing for fuel taxes. As a result, fuel taxes may increase with rising inflation rates. This measure is up for extension in the 2018 ballot (Nevada Department of Transportation 2016).

Total amount collected in fuels tax in 2016 are shown in **Table 11**. The specific contribution of Burning Man participants to fuels tax revenue for particular municipalities or counties is dependent on the location and amount of motor fuel purchases by those traveling to or from the event.

Table 11
Projected Fuel Tax Revenue Fiscal Year 2016-2017

County or State	County Option Tax (9 cents/gallon)	County Share of Mandatory County Tax (6.35 cents/gallon)
Churchill	\$865,609	\$1,259,316
Humboldt	\$1,205,118	\$1,779,497
Lyon	\$2,371,330	\$1,553,367
Pershing	\$349,031	\$1,128,951
Washoe	\$15,555,582	\$9,875,820
State of Nevada	\$104,269,148	\$74,287,547

Source: Nevada Department of Taxation 2016

Participants may also gamble within casinos in the state for which Nevada collects revenue based on a complex schedule of gaming license fees and taxes. Gaming revenue by county and statewide, for the three-month period from July through September is shown in **Table 12**. Revenue has generally increased over the last five years for all Assessment Area counties with available data, although some variation has occurred.

Table 12
Gaming Revenue July-September (\$1,000's)

County or State	2017	2106	2015	2014	2013
Churchill	\$5,187	\$5,048	\$4,944	\$4,964	\$5,111
Humboldt	\$4,700	\$4,549	\$5,003	\$4,562	\$5,470
Lyon	\$11,491	\$10,663	\$10,738	\$10,379	\$10,020
Washoe	\$464,032	\$437,198	\$417,885	\$348,221	\$407,313
State of Nevada	\$5,671,720	\$5,431,470	\$5,155,638	\$5,168,784	\$5,151,415

Source: Nevada Gaming Commission 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013

Note: Taxable gaming revenue July 1-September 30 for each year. Data not adjusted for inflation.

No data available for Pershing County

Vendors who provide services on the playa or sell products to participants along the travel routes to the event are required to obtain business licenses and business permits following county and state regulations as well as SRPs from the BLM.

There were approximately 63 vendors on the playa for 2018 who may be required to pay licensing fees. Business licensing and permit fees represent a minor contribution to local government revenue. In Pershing County, a business license is \$10 per quarter. Nevada state business annual licensing fees are \$200. Vendors in Washoe County must apply for licenses and health permits (as applicable) to sell products to event participants in Washoe County along travel routes to the event. For Washoe County, new general businesses pay a fee of \$77.75 for their first year of operation. After the first year, business license fees are based on reported annual gross receipts and vary from \$57.75 to \$657.75 (Washoe County 2018). Washoe County Code enforcement staff reported the cost of sending employees to Gerlach to ensure compliance generally negates the revenue obtained from permit costs.

Effective October 2015, a 9 percent live entertainment tax is collected on ticket sales from the Burning Man Event. Based on 2017 ticket sales, approximately \$3,291,725 was collected for this tax in 2017 (BRC 2017a).

Local agencies also charge permit fees to BRC to cover services. The Nevada State Health Division can charge a fee per day when attendance exceeds specified levels for inspection and enforcement of temporary food services permits. Fees collected at the 2017 event were \$31,690 (BRC 2017a).

In addition to above fees and taxes, property taxes collected by local government, and payroll and business taxes to the state, represent additional contributions from BRC operations and properties that are not included above. This revenue would be returned to the Assessment Area based on tax distribution statutes for the state, county and local municipalities as appropriate.

Demand, Cost, and Capacity of Community Services

The Burning Man Event results in costs for local government for services provided at the event site and surrounding the event, as described below. Public Health and Safety at the Burning Man event (BLM 2018) and **Section 3.5.1**, Public Health and Safety provide supplemental details on the nature and extent of public health and safety issues associated with event that require the provision of the services discussed in this section.

Emergency Medical Services and Fire Protection: The Gerlach Fire Department, supervised by the Sierra Fire Protection District provides services in the Gerlach area. The Gerlach Volunteer Fire Department typically has two paid personnel that can respond to emergencies on a regular basis. To address the increased demand for services before, during, and after Burning Man, the Fire Department has brought on an additional two paid personnel, authorizes overtime and brings on additional volunteers starting in July and continuing through October, with peak demand at event entry and Exodus (Gerlach Fire Department 2017). BRC provides an annual donation to the Gerlach Volunteer Fire Department (BRC 2017a). The Gerlach Volunteer Fire Department does not provide emergency medical or fire protection services at the Burning Man event. The PLPT aids with emergency medical services at the event. Tribal representatives stated that calls for EMS services for the event leave the tribal population without services. This can impact the ability to provide the necessary level of community services. In 2018, the PLPT EMS handled an additional 29 service calls connected to the event, which included 8 medical calls, 5 fires, 13 vehicle crashes, 3 mutual aid to assist Gerlach, as well as transports to area hospitals during the 21 days we provided services (PLPT 2018).

Fire protection services at the events have been provided by a BLM-certified fire contractor and the volunteer Black Rock City Emergency Services Department. In 2016, emergency medical services were provided by Crowd RX, a contracted services, at a cost to BRC of \$736,050 (BRC 2017c). The price for these services varies by year and the contractor may change; in 2017, services were provided by National Event Services (BRC 2017a).

Law Enforcement: Washoe County Sheriff's Office maintains a substation in Gerlach with two resident deputies. During Burning Man, Washoe County Sheriff's Office temporarily assigns an additional seven deputies and a sergeant to the Gerlach substation during the event to provide services in Gerlach and the surrounding area. In 2017, the contracted amount with BRC for services was \$110,500 (Washoe County 2017a). The sheriff's office uses the money to pay for the salaries of additional deputies needed in the area, as well as their lodging, daily food expenses and vehicle cost reimbursements. According to the contract, no state law or local ordinance requires the sheriff's office to be reimbursed for the costs. BRC as part of its agreement with the BLM agreed to help Washoe County with its law enforcement costs.

Law enforcement concerns from participants traveling through tribal lands can occur within the Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation. In 2018 the department had nine sworn officers available to participate in the Burning Man Event for a 24-day operational period (PLPT 2018).

BRC has an agreement with the PLPT for services provided, including law enforcement. In 2017, the total payment to the PLPT was \$117,043. With the agreed upon 3 percent annual increase in payment, the 2018 payment was \$120,554. Tribal records indicate that the funding provided by the BRC falls short of the incurred cost for the Tribe, which vary by year, but were \$147,662 in 2017 and \$152,118 in 2018 (PLPT 2018).

BLM officials and the Pershing County Sheriff's Office are present to enforce federal, state, and county laws at the event. In 2016, there were 46 arrests and 559 citations issued by the Pershing County Sheriff's Office and BLM. Based on a 2013 settlement agreement with BRC, Pershing County is paid for joint services provided at the event, which included 15-24 officers per 24-hour period. Under this agreement, BRC agreed to pay \$240,000 annually to Pershing County, including approximately \$70,000 to the district attorney's office, \$5,000 to the county assessor's office, and the remainder to the

Sherriff's office. Pershing County has indicated that the agreed amount no longer covers the full law enforcement costs to the County. For example, the expenditures incurred by the Sherriff's department associated with the 2017 event were approximately \$35,000 over budget (Pershing County 2017). Law enforcement and safety concerns are further discussed in **Section 3.5.1** and Public Health and Safety at the Burning Man event (BLM 2018).

The Black Rock Rangers are a volunteer organization directed by BRC to engage with issues of Burning Man norms and rules, address safety concerns, mediate disputes, and resolve conflicts. They are not part of a law-enforcement agency.

Traffic and Road Maintenance: Increased state and local government expenditures on road maintenance can be attributed to the substantial increased daily traffic volumes on several roads (see **Section 3.9.2**, Transportation and Traffic), particularly SR-447 and County Road 34. BRC provides funding for professional flaggers and barricades and NDOT assistance during the event. Traffic citation services along highway travel routes were also provided in coordination with the Nevada Department of Transportation. Based on the day of the event, services included 6-24 officers per 24-hour period, with the peak demand during event entry and Exodus (BRC 2017a).

Washoe County Public Works maintains County Road 34. Initial costs for pre-event repair to Washoe County to mitigate 2016 event road damage were \$340,000. Post event inspections identified the need for additional repairs for road damage that occurred during the 2017 event, or prior repairs which had failed, at an additional cost of \$248,000 to Washoe County. Included in these costs were man-hours used to complete road repairs, which for the 2017 event equaled 245.5 compared to the 155 combined man hours for 2015 and 2016 events (Washoe County 2017b).

Trash and Waste Disposal: The Burning Man Event is run as a Leave No Trace® event. BRC has coined the term Matter out of Place or MOOP. As stated in the Burning Man website, MOOP is 'a convenient way of referring to anything that is not originally of the land on which our event takes place. Everything that wasn't originally on or of the Black Rock Desert, no matter how small, is considered MOOP, and is to be removed as part of our Leave No Trace® efforts'. Following the event, BRC, in coordination with BLM, removes any remaining waste. As part of the post-event clean up, BRC also collects and disposes of roadside waste. All event participants are required to remove their own garbage from the event. Event participants are provided information with locations of authorized dump sites upon arrival. The PLPT and BRC have an agreement to help collect waste from participants traveling from the event on fee basis. In 2018, dumpsters were placed in the Nixon and Wadsworth communities and monitored by volunteers. Overall revenue was minimal when costs were accounted for. The PLPT also noted that transferring and processing trash generated by the Burning Man event burdens the waste management/transfer station, which was designed to handle a tribal population of less than 3,000 (PLPT 2018).

In addition, not all trash is disposed of properly. It is difficult to quantify the specific cost of additional waste disposal services to take care of unauthorized dumping in each individual community. Local community representatives and stakeholders who participated in socioeconomic interviews noted disposal of waste on the roadsides and in area dumpsters as an issue. Some of the costs of disposal may be borne by individual businesses rather than local government; in socioeconomic interviews, businesses noted that they order additional dumpsters in anticipation of the event, which county and city

government do not typically provide increased services. Abandoned vehicles and the cost of transport and disposal were also noted as issues in socioeconomic interviews.

Water: Potable water for the event is purchased by BRC from the Gerlach General Improvement District, which manages Gerlach's municipal water supply.

Regional Impacts

Impacts from the Burning Man Event occur throughout a wider region than the Five-County Assessment Area. As discussed in the Event Economic Activity- Participant Spending section, the majority of spending occurs outside of the Assessment Area and Nevada. Based on the 2017 BRC census data, approximately 79.5 percent of participants reside in the US, of this group, approximately 48.5 percent currently reside in California (BRC 2017b). As a result, economic impacts of purchasing supplies for, and travel to, the event can also occur along travel corridors from California. Some analysis has even suggested that economic spending in San Francisco over Labor Day weekend may be impacted by the large number of residents who attend the event; a Fortune magazine article from 2014 published data indicating that some neighborhoods saw as much as a 20 percent drop in credit card sales compared to a typical week (Fortune 2014).

In addition, BRC is based in San Francisco. Some expenditures for the organization do not occur directly in the Assessment Area but would contribute to the regional economy. As discussed in the Event Economic Activity- Operational Expenditures section, approximately 47 percent of event operational expenditures in 2017 were estimated to be spent within Nevada, with the remainder associated with vendors based or materials sourced from outside the area. Based on 2016 publicly available data, BRC employed approximately 858 temporary and permanent employees. The majority of employees are temporary (approximately 89 percent in 2017). Many of these temporary employees are likely to reside outside of the Assessment Area. Similarly, the majority of permanent employees reside outside of the Assessment Area (approximately 89 percent resided in California in 2017), Direct labor expenditures for California permanent and temporary staff represent approximately 73 percent of total labor expenditures in 2017 (BRC 2017b).

Official and unofficial spinoffs from the Burning Man Event occur throughout the year around the US and the world can also contribute to the economy outside of the Assessment Area. Regional groups support activities for Burners in their hometowns, including but not limited to decompression events and regional burns. These gatherings that often generate some form of economic activity in the local area.

1.5.2 Environmental Consequences

Analysis Methods

The analysis for Economics is based on participant data as reported in the 2017 BRC Census (BRC 2017b), operational expenditures from the 2017 event as provided by BRC (BRC 2017a), information provided by local community representatives and other stakeholders in socioeconomic interviews, and other relevant literature. **Table 13**, below, summarizes the types of impacts on economics and indicators and assumptions for determining the nature and types of impact under each alternative. Additional details of analysis methods are included in Appendix B, Methods for Quantified Economic Analysis.

Table 13
Impact Analysis Methods for Economics

Types of Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase or decrease in economic activity in the Assessment Area attributable to the event • Community service demand (at the event and as a result of the event) - increase or decrease • Cost (increase or decrease) to and capacity of public agencies to meet demands for services • Federal, state, county, and/or local tax revenue increase or decrease
Impact Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to the direct level of local spending by participants, and indirect and induced spending, jobs, and economic output generated by these expenditures in the Socioeconomic Assessment Area and Nevada • Changes to the direct level of operational expenditures made to hold the event, and indirect and induced spending, jobs, and economic output generated by these expenditures in the Socioeconomic Assessment Area and Nevada • Changes to direct employment levels supported by event operations • Change to the cost and/or availability of community services as a result of the event • Change to the revenue collected by local, county, state, and/or federal agencies as a result of taxes collected due to event activity • Change to regional economic indicators such as employment and income based on event expenditures
Assumptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on BRC census data from 2017, total event spending was a median of \$1,500. Spending in Nevada was approximately \$666.60 per event attendee. Based on the reported stops at Nevada communities, it is estimated that approximately \$576.66, or 86.5 percent of spending occurred within the Five-County Assessment Area. • The same participant spending estimates are utilized for event participants, BRC volunteers and BRC staff. Total spending in the Assessment Area by BRC staff and volunteers may be substantially higher depending on length of stay, location of lodging, and other factors. That data was not available. Therefore, for the purpose of this analysis, it is assumed their spending associated with participation in the event is similar to other participants. • Participant spending is assumed to scale with permitted participant levels (i.e., each additional participant would be assumed to spend 576.66 in the local region). • BRC operational expenditures are assumed to scale with permitted population size. While some of BRC's expenditures likely are fixed or change at a rate different than the change in population, it was determined that this assumption is sufficiently accurate for the purposes of this analysis. • For BRC operational expenditures where the specific location of spending was not provided, the analysis will assume 50 percent of spending occurs within the Five-County Assessment Area. • The tax analysis model assumes Food, Fun, and Survival are all retail purchases subject to a Sales Tax. An average Sales Tax taken from the five counties in the Assessment Area. • The tax analysis model assumes each participant only lodged once in the Assessment Area with a Lodging Tax of 13% and a \$2 surcharge per room. • The tax analysis model takes the average Nevada gas price for August 2017 and September 2017 to calculate the average gallons purchased per participant. The average gallons purchased is used to determine the County Fuel Tax (\$ 0.1535/Gallon) contribution for the Assessment Area.

Event Economic Contributions

This assessment utilizes the economic contribution approach. In other words, this analysis provides an assessment of the gross effects on the economy from event spending. In comparison to an economic impacts approach, this analysis does not attempt to quantify the spending that would occur by BRC and event participants in the absence of the event. This analysis does not distinguish between money brought into the area from non-local visitors and local resident spending. However, based on the fact that less than 5 percent of total participants reside in Nevada, it is likely that much of the spending represents that from non-local visitors.

To calculate the economic contribution of the event, an input-output model, IMPLAN, was used to calculate the jobs, incomes, and output statewide that are supported as money from BRC operational expenditures and event participants are spent in Nevada's economy. The model accounts for the "multiplier effect" that occurs as dollars circulate throughout the economy.

Economic contribution studies use specific terminology to identify different types of economic effects that can be modeled using input-output tools. More specifically, the IMPLAN model provides estimates of the effects of the expenditures on income and employment that follow from direct, indirect, and induced expenditures. Key terms and concepts associated with economic contribution analysis include the following:

- Output represents the value of all goods and services produced from an event, and it is the broadest measure of economic activity.
- Labor Income consists of employee compensation and proprietor income, and it is a subset of output. This includes workers' wages and salaries, as well as other benefits such as health, disability, and life insurance, retirement payments, and non-cash compensation.
- Jobs are measured in terms of the annual average of monthly jobs in that industry (this is the same definition used by Bureau of Labor Statistics and Bureau of Economic Analysis nationally). Thus, 1 job lasting 12 months = 2 jobs lasting 6 months each = 3 jobs lasting 4 months each. A job can be either full-time or part-time.
- Direct effects are the output, jobs, and labor income associated with the set of expenditures entered into the model (typically described as the "inputs" to the model).
- Indirect effects are production changes in backward-linked industries caused by the changing input needs of directly affected industries. Suppliers to the directly involved industry would also purchase additional goods and services; spending leads to additional rounds of indirect effects.
- Induced effects are the changes in regional household spending patterns caused by changes in household income. The direct and indirect increases in employment and income enhance the overall purchasing power in the economy, thereby inducing further spending by households. Employees in these industries, for example, would use their income to purchase groceries or take their children to the doctor.
- Taken together, these combined economic effects (direct + indirect + induced) describe Burning Man's total contribution to the Assessment Area and Nevada's economy. Effects are described in terms of total output, income, and jobs, as defined above.

It should be noted that economic modeling examines the effects of event spending in two separate regions: the Five-County Assessment Area and the rest of Nevada (within the state of Nevada but

outside of the Assessment Area). Spending that occurs in each region also has effects on the other region. For example, some of the event spending in the Assessment area has indirect effects in the rest of Nevada, and some of the event spending in the rest of Nevada has indirect effects in the Assessment Area. IMPLAN's multi-region input-output (MRIO) capability was used to link county models between the two regions, so that the direct spending in one region that results in indirect spending in the other region could also be captured. The totals in for the Assessment Area displayed in tables below include both the effects of event spending in the Assessment Area as well as the indirect effects in the Assessment Area from event spending in the rest of Nevada. Likewise, the totals for the rest of Nevada include both the effects of event spending in rest of Nevada as well as the indirect effects in the rest of Nevada from event spending in the Assessment Area. The results for the State of Nevada reflect the sum of the effects in both regions. As discussed in the Affected Environment section, this local and state spending represents only one portion of the spending and economic contributions from the event and should not be considered a comprehensive representation of all economic contributions. Broader economic impacts from the event occur throughout the region and are discussed on a qualitative basis as appropriate.

Inputs to the model for direct operational spending in the Assessment Area and the rest of Nevada include Nevada based non-labor expenditure data provided by BRC, including goods and services spending on the event, social contributions, and property-related costs. The amount also excludes monetary transfers to government agencies in the form of taxes, permit fees, and payment for services. These transfer payments are discussed under the Fiscal Analysis section.

Fiscal Analysis and Demand and Capacity of Community Services

Information on source of revenue and demands and costs of services with the potential to be impacted by the event are discussed in the Affected Environment. The effects analysis provides a quantitative assessment of the impacts on local government revenues associated with the event. This analysis was based on permitted levels of participants under each Alternative and the BLM revenue associated with the SRP permit fees.

To determine tax contributions from participant spending, the level of participant reported spending is examined in coordination with local tax rates for sales, lodging, and gas taxes to define an approximate tax contribution per participant in the Assessment Area. The total tax contribution is then based on the total number of participants by alternatives to estimate Assessment Area tax contributions from participant spending. Tax contributions from non-labor operational expenditures were analyzed based on estimated vendor costs provided by BRC and special event taxes collected as discussed in the Affected Environment section. Additional details are provided in Appendix B.

Direct and Indirect Impacts from Alternatives

Summary of Economic Contributions and Tax Contributions

Under all event alternatives operational spending by BRC and spending by participants traveling to and from the event would continue to represent direct and indirect spending as discussed in the Affected Environment section. A summary of economic contributions from spending in the Assessment Area and Nevada is provided in **Table 14**. Details are provided in the Alternative A (Proposed Action) discussion.

Participant and operational spending as reported in the BRC Census (BRC 2017b) was examined to provide an estimate of state and local tax revenue associated with this spending. A summary is provided in **Table 15**.

Table 14
Comparison of Total Annual Economic Contribution in the Assessment Area and in Nevada by Alternative

Location		Total Output (Millions 2018\$)	Total Labor Income (Millions 2018\$)	Total Jobs
Assessment Area	A- Proposed Action	\$68.2	\$41.9	626
	B- Reduced Population	\$34.1	\$20.9	313
	C-Alternate Location	\$68.2	\$41.9	626
	D-No Action (current event population)	\$54.6	\$33.5	501
	E-No Event	—	—	—
State of Nevada	A-Proposed Action	\$79.0	\$49.4	722
	B-Reduced Population	\$39.5	\$24.7	361
	C-Alternate Location	\$79.0	\$49.4	722
	D-No Action (current event population)	\$63.2	\$39.5	578
	E-No Event	—	—	—

Source: ECONorthwest 2018

— = Less than No Action, declining over time to zero.

Table 15
Comparison of Tax Contributions from Participant Spending and Operational Expenditures in the Assessment Area by Alternative

Category	Tax Per Participant	A- Proposed Action	B-Reduced Population	C- Alternate Location	D-No Population Increase (Current Event Population)	E-No Event	
		Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	
Participant Spending	Food	\$10.40	\$1,040,000	\$520,000	\$1,040,000	\$832,000	—
	Lodging	\$17.27	\$1,727,000	\$863,500	\$1,727,000	\$1,381,600	—
	Fun	\$6.88	\$688,000	\$344,000	\$688,000	\$550,400	—
	Fuel	\$5.24	\$524,000	\$262,000	\$524,000	\$419,200	—
	Survival	\$6.40	\$640,000	\$320,000	\$640,000	\$512,000	—
	Total	\$46.19	\$4,619,000	\$2,309,500	\$4,619,000	\$3,695,200	—
Operational Expenditures	Vendor	0	\$347,431	\$173,715	\$347,431	\$277,945	—
	Fuel	0	\$53,706	\$26,853	\$53,706	\$42,964	—
	Live Entertainment	0	\$4,114,656	\$2,057,328	\$4,114,656	\$3,291,725	—
	Property	0	\$18,116	\$9,058	\$18,116	\$14,493	—
	Total	0	\$4,533,909	\$2,266,955	\$4,533,909	\$3,627,127	—
Grand Total	-	\$9,152,909	\$4,576,455	\$9,152,909	\$7,322,327	—	

Source: BRC 2018b

— = Less than No Action, declining over time to zero.

Alternatives Analysis

Alternative A (Proposed Action)

Event Economic Contributions: Under Alternative A once population reaches 100,000 in year 5 of the permit, the total direct annual spending related to Burning Man associated with BRC non-labor operational expenditures and participants spending in Nevada would be \$74.2 million at peak event size. This includes the direct spending by BRC and total participant spending based on the reported average expenses to travel to and return from Burning Man multiplied across the 100,000 participants. Participant spending calculations do not account for additional spending by BRC staff and volunteers

above the average spending levels or spending participants that did not account for under supplies or lodging, and therefore may underestimate participant spending levels. Calculations exclude labor expenditures and government transfers for permit fees and other payments.

Total economic output in Nevada associated with event spending is estimated at over \$78 million. Almost \$68 million of this would occur in the Assessment Area. Of the \$68 million, about 60 percent is labor income, supporting 625 jobs in the Assessment Area. As discussed under the Analysis Methods section, this represents total annual direct, indirect, and induced full and part time jobs supported by operational and participant spending rather than the jobs directly associated with BRC employment at the event. Since much of the spending occurs over a short period of times, many of these jobs may be part time and short term; however, the high level of expenditures are likely to support many full time jobs as well. Statewide, spending on the event in Nevada contributes almost \$50 million in labor income supporting over 720 jobs. In years 1 through 4 of the permit, when population increases by 5 percent each year, spending and economic contribution would increase commensurately until it reaches the year 5 amounts described above. **Table 16.** shows the total contribution of the Burning Man Event in Nevada for Alternative A (Proposed Action).

Table 16
Total Annual Economic Contribution of Burning Man in Nevada for Alternative A
(Proposed Action)

Location	Type of Impact	Direct Effect	Indirect Effect	Induced Effect	Total Effect
5-County Assessment Area	Output	\$42,153,700	\$13,065,500	\$12,989,400	\$68,208,600
	Labor Income	\$26,700,600	\$7,461,000	\$7,735,900	\$41,897,500
	Jobs	449	86	91	626
Rest of Nevada	Output	\$6,374,200	\$2,290,700	\$2,157,700	\$10,822,600
	Labor Income	\$4,921,300	\$1,288,500	\$1,284,000	\$7,493,800
	Jobs	71	11	14	96
State of Nevada	Output	\$48,527,900	\$15,356,200	\$15,147,100	\$79,031,200
	Labor Income	\$31,621,900	\$8,749,500	\$9,019,900	\$49,391,300
	Jobs	520	98	105	722

Source: ECONorthwest 2018

Although economic impacts of the event would occur throughout the Assessment Area, certain communities and counties would likely see a proportional higher level of impacts. As discussed in the Affected Environment section, based on participant stop data and services available, direct participant spending and associated economic output would most likely occur in Washoe County (particularly in the communities of Reno and Sparks), in Lyons County (Fernley), as well as to some degree in Humboldt County (Winnemucca). In terms of operational expenditures, because Reno is the largest city in proximity to the event, many vendors are based in the Reno/Sparks metropolitan area, therefore economic impacts may be concentrated in this area.

As discussed in the Affected Environment section, a significant portion of participant spending, as well as event operation costs are spent outside of the Assessment Area and Nevada; this spending is not captured in this model. Based on BRC provided expenditures for 2017, it is estimated approximately half of operational expenditures occurred to vendors based outside of Nevada. Due to the headquarters of BRC in San Francisco, and the fact that 48.5 percent of event attendees from the US currently reside in California, it is likely that a large portion of the out of area spending occurs in California (BRC 2017b).

In addition to BRC non-labor operational expenditures, labor expenditures are likely to increase. While the exact level of increase and associated economic contributions cannot be estimated here, it can be assumed that contributions to jobs and income directly from BRC would be maintained at current levels reported in the Affected Environment or increased to support the larger event as population increases to maximum levels in 5 years.

Fiscal Analysis and Demand and Capacity of Community Services: Federal government costs and revenue associated with administration of the SRP and operation at the event are anticipated to rise as event size increases. Because the SRP permit includes cost recovery fees, it is anticipated that all increased costs would be recovered. BLM revenue associated with SRP fees could be anticipated to increase by approximately 25 percent at maximum population size, assuming vendor revenue increases in proportion with population size and that ticket prices remain the same with the exception of adjustment for inflation. Based on 2017 commercial use fees collected, commercial use fees under Alternative A (Proposed Action) are estimated at \$1,243,951. Cost recover fees can provide additional revenue, but the level would vary based on the indirect cost rate.

Level of services required for BLM event law enforcement and management would also be increased with event size. Public health and safety indicators, to include BLM citations, reported sexual assaults, and arrests made by Pershing County Sheriff's Office can be expected to increase proportionately with population size. **Section 3.5.1** describes the potential impacts on BLM law enforcement under Alternative A (Proposed Action). The assessment concludes that, at a population of 100,000, the number of BLM law enforcement staff needed for the event would represent approximately 50 percent of the all BLM law enforcement staff in 2018. This staffing level may not be feasible and, if met, would reduce the BLM's ability to execute other agency missions. Refer to **Public Health and Safety at the Burning Man Event** for additional details (BLM 2018).

As discussed in the Affected Environment section, the event increases demand for and thus costs associated with various state and local government services. Some notable examples include law enforcement costs for various counties (both for on-playa services as well as increase in staffing around the time of the event), court costs (Pershing County), and road repair cost for Washoe County, and water supply in Gerlach. Revenues associated with the event for local counties and communities come in two main forms, 1) direct agreements with the BRC, and 2) revenue from taxes collected.

The level to which the increase in revenue with increased event size would offset increased demand and costs of services is uncertain and would likely vary by service and agency. Currently, law enforcement service costs for cooperating agencies on the playa (Pershing County), and in the surrounding area and along travel routes (i.e., Washoe County, Nevada Highway Patrol, and PLPT) are offset, at least in part, by agreements with BRC. In Socioeconomic Interviews, counties and city representatives generally indicated that with these payments, current demand for services did not result in budget constraints or outpace capacity to provide services. The exceptions are Pershing County and the PLPT Reservation, which stated that their costs associated with the event typically overrun compensation. If BRC contributions remained at current levels, additional counties would likely have demands exceeding capacity. However, if BRC contributions increased in accordance with population size, agencies could provide staffing in accordance with event demands without impacts on budgets, based on the feedback received in socioeconomic interviews (see Appendix A). However, increased demand for services may

result in a strain on available resources or impact the ability to provide other services. In addition, agencies may face a shortage of qualified workers who are available to provide services.

In Pershing County and the PLPT Reservation in particular, issues of cost overruns would be likely to be maintained or increased with increased event size due to costs such as additional overtime/salary costs for officers, hiring of officers from other agencies, and/or additional fuel and vehicle maintenance and supplies.

Costs for road repair services would continue to be offset, at least in part by taxes collected from event participant spending. For example, road repair costs in Washoe County for 2017 were estimated at \$248,000, and fuel taxes (which help fund road repairs) collected under Alternative A (Proposed Action) are estimated at \$524,000, a portion of which would be distributed to Washoe County. In total, an estimated \$4,619,000 in taxes would be collected from event participant spending under Alternative A (Proposed Action). In addition, an estimated \$4,533,909 in taxes would be collected from non-labor operational expenditure spending in the Assessment Area (see **Table 15**). Mitigation recommended in the DEIS, **Appendix E** for inclusion of a cost-sharing agreement with Washoe County for road repairs on County Road 34 associated with Event traffic would minimize impacts.

For potable water purchased from the Gerlach General Improvement District for use at the event, impacts could occur with increased event size. Unless alternative sources of water were utilized, increased water purchases for the event may strain Gerlach’s resources.

Alternative B

Event Economic Contribution: Under Alternative B, Reduced Population, total direct spending on non-labor BRC expenditures and by participants in Nevada is estimated to decrease to approximately \$39.3 million. As noted under Alternative A (Proposed Action), participant spending calculations do not account for additional spending by BRC staff and volunteers above the average spending levels or spending participants that did not account for under supplies or lodging, and therefore may underestimate participant spending levels. Calculations exclude labor expenditures and government transfers for permit fees and other payments.

Total economic contributions would decrease to a total economic output in Nevada of around \$40 million. Almost \$35 million of this would occur in the Assessment Area. Statewide, spending contributes almost \$25 million in labor income supporting almost 370 jobs. **Table 17** shows the total contribution of the Burning Man Event in Nevada for Alternative B. As discussed under the Alternative A (Proposed Action), additional spending would occur outside of Nevada, particularly in California, that is not accounted for in this model.

Table 17
Total Annual Economic Contribution of Burning Man in Nevada for Alternative B

Location	Type of Impact	Direct Effect	Indirect Effect	Induced Effect	Total Effect
5-County Assessment Area	Output	\$21,076,800	\$6,532,700	\$6,494,700	\$34,104,200
	Labor Income	\$13,350,300	\$3,730,500	\$3,868,000	\$20,948,800
	Jobs	224	43	46	313

Location	Type of Impact	Direct Effect	Indirect Effect	Induced Effect	Total Effect
Rest of Nevada	Output	\$3,187,100	\$1,145,400	\$1,078,900	\$5,411,400
	Labor Income	\$2,460,700	\$644,300	\$642,000	\$3,747,000
	Jobs	36	6	7	48
State of Nevada	Output	\$24,263,900	\$7,678,100	\$7,573,600	\$39,515,600
	Labor Income	\$15,811,000	\$4,374,800	\$4,510,000	\$24,695,800
	Jobs	260	49	52	361

Source: ECONorthwest 2018

Fiscal Analysis and Community Services: Impacts on government revenue and costs would be similar in nature to those described under Alternative A (Proposed Action). Under Alternative B, with reduced event size, potential for strains on resources and budgets would be reduced, as demand and costs for all services would be assumed to decrease in accordance with population decrease. Law enforcement demands would likewise decrease with decreased event size, and existing resources at the BLM and Pershing County, and the PLPT and other cooperating entities may be sufficient to provide services.

However, decreased attendance would result in decreased contributions to local and state taxes from participant spending. Total tax revenue under Alternative B from participant spending is reported as \$2,309,500. In addition, an estimated \$2,266,955 in taxes would be collected from operational expenditure spending in the Assessment Area (see **Table 15**).

Alternative C

Event Economic Contributions: Alternative C would result in moving the event to a different location on the playa. The location on the playa may change BRC’s event costs somewhat; however, insufficient information is available at this time to determine how or by what magnitude. Total population would remain at current condition levels. Thus, for the purpose of this analysis, it is assumed that the same level of spending as that estimated under Alternative A (Proposed Action). There is no reason to assume that participant spending would vary, and since this alternative incorporates the same population ramp-up and final population as Alternative A (Proposed Action), participant spending would be the same.

Fiscal Analysis and Community Services: Impacts would be similar to those described under Alternative A (Proposed Action). Due to the more remote location of the alternative location for the event, there is potential that the cost and time required to provide services such as law enforcement support and emergency response could be increased.

Alternative D

Event Economic Contributions: Under Alternative D, the total direct spending related to Burning Man as reported by BRC and participants in Nevada would be \$59.3 million. As noted under Alternative A (Proposed Action), participant spending calculations do not account for additional spending by BRC staff and volunteers above the average spending levels or spending participants that did not account for under supplies or lodging, and therefore may underestimate participant spending levels. Calculations exclude labor expenditures and government transfers for permit fees and other payments.

Economic contributions from this spending in Nevada are estimated at \$63 million. Almost \$55 million of this would occur in the Assessment Area. Of the \$55 million, about 60 percent is labor income, supporting 500

jobs in the Assessment Area. Statewide, spending contributes almost \$40 million in labor income supporting almost 600 jobs. **Table 18** shows the total contribution of the Burning Man Event in Nevada for Alternative D. As discussed under Alternative A (Proposed Action), additional spending would occur outside of Nevada, particularly in California, that is not accounted for in this model.

Table 18
Total Annual Economic Contribution of Burning Man in Nevada for Alternative D

Location	Type of Impact	Direct Effect	Indirect Effect	Induced Effect	Total Effect
5-County Assessment Area	Output	\$33,722,900	\$10,452,400	\$10,391,500	\$54,566,800
	Labor Income	\$21,360,500	\$5,968,800	\$6,188,700	\$33,518,000
	Jobs	359	69	73	501
Rest of Nevada	Output	\$5,099,300	\$1,832,500	\$1,726,300	\$8,658,100
	Labor Income	\$3,937,100	\$1,030,800	\$1,027,200	\$5,995,100
	Jobs	57	9	11	77
State of Nevada	Output	\$38,822,200	\$12,284,900	\$12,117,800	\$63,224,900
	Labor Income	\$25,297,600	\$6,999,600	\$7,215,900	\$39,513,100
	Jobs	416	78	84	578

Source: ECONorthwest 2018

Fiscal Analysis and Community Services: Impacts on government revenue and costs would be similar in nature to those described under Alternative A (Proposed Action). Under Alternative D, no increase in population size or related increases in cost and demand for services would occur above current conditions. Impacts would remain similar to those discussed in the Affected Environment. With event population remaining at current population levels, total tax revenue under Alternative D from participant spending is estimated as \$3,695,200. In addition, an estimated \$3,627,127 would be collected from operational expenditure spending in the Assessment Area (see **Table 15**).

Alternative E

Event Economic Contributions: Should BLM choose to not issue an SRP for the event, it is likely that a relatively large informal unpermitted gathering would still occur on the playa. Economic contributions from participants traveling to and from the event would likely still occur, although the specific amount cannot be determined. Because no BRC spending would occur to organize and hold the event, no contributions would occur from this spending. In the long-term, economic contributions would most likely be reduced as word of the event closure is passed along and event size decreased.

Fiscal Analysis and Demand and Capacity of Community Services: In the absence of a formal SRP permit and an event run by BRC, it is likely that BLM staff, as well as local law enforcement and state highway patrol would remain needed to manage informal event crowds and traffic. Agencies would no longer receive compensation for services from BRC or have assistance from BRC staff. As a result, demand for services and costs would be increased. In the long-term, impacts would most likely be reduced as word of the event closure is passed along and unauthorized use decreased.

Recommended Mitigation

Refer to mitigation measures reported in other resource and resource use sections. Consider additional discussion for cost sharing agreements including BRC negotiation with Washoe County to provide cost recovery for maintenance of County Road 34 associated with event traffic.

Cumulative Impacts

Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions.

Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions that affect similar sectors of the economy as under Alternative A (Proposed Action) include recreation on the National Conservation Area (NCA), communication, mineral and energy development projects, and roadway infrastructure projects, identified in the Reasonably Foreseeable Future Action discussion of the EIS, as well as regional tourism events, such as Hot August Nights in Reno and Rib Fest. These activities have direct impacts on local economies and have indirect impacts on the sustainability of economic activity in the region so that other activities continue to function and be served.

Contributions to Cumulative Impacts from Event Alternatives. Under all Event Alternatives, the Burning Man Event would continue to contribute to local economic contributions, supporting related industries. Depending on the timing to proposed construction and development activities in relation to the event, there is potential for additional strains on community services including but not limited to traffic control, law enforcement, and emergency medical response. Due to the short-term nature of the event, strains on services would be temporary and short-term if they occurred. Potential for strain on services would be greatest under the Alternative A (Proposed Action) due to the highest level of services demanded under this Alternative. The Burning Man Event occurs at a timeframe when other tourist activities are occurring in the area, including Rib Fest and Hot August Nights. While the tourist infrastructure supports the current event size, increased demand under Alternative A (Proposed Action) or Alternative C may result in increased potential for hotels in the area to be booked to capacity, as well as increased room rates. This could impact the level of tourists to the area who not attending the event. Under other Alternatives, impacts would be similar (Alternative D) or reduced (Alternative B).

Alternative E: No Permit/Action Alternative. If an unpermitted event occurred, it would contribute some of the same economic contributions as under Alternative A (Proposed Action) to the cumulative impacts Assessment Area. Because the event would be expected to have fewer participants than under Alternative A (Proposed Action) in the long term the incremental contribution would be reduced compared with the Alternative A (Proposed Action).

1.6 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, requires that federal agencies identify and address any disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs, policies, and activities on minority, low-income, and tribal populations. Analyzing environmental justice impacts therefore requires two steps: (1) an initial screening to identify minority and low-income populations and (2) identifying any impacts that disproportionately and adversely affect these populations, compared to non-minority and middle- and upper-income populations.

According to the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) Environmental Justice Guidelines for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 1997), "minority populations should be identified where

either the minority population of the affected area exceeds 50 percent or where the minority population percentage of the affected area is meaningfully greater than the minority population percentage in the general population or other appropriate unit of geographic analysis.” For this analysis, meaningfully greater is defined as 10 percentage points of more above the state comparison population.

Minorities are defined as individuals who are members of the following population groups:

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Black, not of Hispanic origin
- Hispanic

Further, CEQ states that in identifying minority communities, agencies may consider as a community either of the following:

- A group of individuals living in geographic proximity to one another
- A geographically dispersed/transient set of individuals, where either type of group experiences common conditions of environmental exposure or effect

A minority population also exists if there is more than one minority group present and the minority percentage, as calculated by aggregating all minority persons, meets one of the above-stated thresholds.

Low-income populations are defined as persons living below the poverty level, based on total income of \$12,082 for an individual and \$24,036 for a family of four for 2015 (US Census Bureau 2015a). The BLM, CEQ, and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidance do not provide a quantitative threshold (e.g., a limit on the percent of persons in poverty) for determining whether a population should be considered low income. Typically, the percent of persons in poverty in the Assessment Area is compared with that in another area, such as the state. As for minority population analysis, a population for further consideration for this analysis is defined as 10 percentage points or more above the state comparison population.

1.6.1 Affected Environment

The initial screening for minority and low-income populations included an examination of the US Census Bureau data. The Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation and the cities of Gerlach, Nixon, and Wadsworth all had poverty levels 10 percentage points or higher than that of Nevada. They were identified for further consideration in the impacts analysis (see **Table 19**, below).

For minority population classification, the BLM examined US Census Bureau data for racial and ethnic minorities. To avoid double counting, the combined minority population was calculated by taking the total population minus those of white, non-Hispanic descent. No county level populations were defined as minority populations for further consideration (see **Table 20**, below). Communities identified for further consideration are the PLPT Reservation and Nixon, which are predominantly Native American, and Wadsworth, which is predominantly Hispanic (see **Table 21**, below).

Table 19
Socioeconomic Assessment Area Poverty (2015)

Jurisdiction	Families Below Poverty	Individuals Below Poverty
Churchill County	11.4%	15.9%
Humboldt County	8.0%	10.5%
Lyon County	11.9%	16.5%
Pershing County	14.8%	17.5%
Washoe County	10.0%	15.2%
Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation *	28.1%	33.5%
Empire	0.0%	0.0%
Fernley	7.5%	11.1%
Gerlach *	34.3%	38.3%
Lovelock	21.0%	24.1%
Nixon *	30.8%	34.1%
Reno	12.0%	18.3%
Sparks	9.7%	13.0%
Wadsworth *	30.6%	37.0%
Nevada (state reference population)	11.4%	15.5%

Source: US Census Bureau 2015b

Notes: American Community Survey estimates are based on data collected over 5 years. The estimates represent the average characteristics of populations between January 2011 and December 2015 and do not represent a single point in time; Low-income individuals are those below the federally defined poverty threshold. American Community Survey estimates are based on data collected over 5 years. The estimates represent the average characteristics of populations between January 2011 and December 2015 and do not represent a single point in time. Type that is **bold** and marked with an asterisk * indicates populations with poverty levels ten percentage points or higher than that of Nevada and identified for further consideration in impacts analysis.

Table 20
Assessment Area Populations by Race/Ethnicity (County Level)

Population	Churchill County	Humboldt County	Lyon County	Pershing County	Washoe County	Nevada
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity of any race	3,182 13.1%	4,353 25.5%	8,079 15.6%	1,550 23.1%	101,261 23.3%	770,553 27.5%
White alone	19,848 81.8%	14,859 87.1%	44,289 85.7%	5,805 86.4%	350,006 80.5%	1,929,661 69.0%
Black or African American alone	575 2.4%	77 0.5%	484 0.9%	324 4.8%	10,468 2.4%	235,721 8.4%
American Indian or Alaska Native alone	1,161 4.8%	828 4.9%	1,403 2.7%	252 3.7%	6,755 1.6%	31,393 1.1%
Asian alone	647 2.7%	54 0.3%	675 1.3%	11 0.2%	23,099 5.3%	214,846 7.7%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	76 0.3%	8 <.01%	37 0.1%	41 0.6%	2,749 0.6%	17,942 0.8%
Some Other Race	884 3.6%	746 4.4%	2,803 5.4%	196 2.9%	25,256 5.8%	246,138 8.8%
Two or more races	1,061 4.4%	495 2.9%	1,966 3.8%	93 1.4%	16,686 3.8%	122,935 4.4%
Combined minority population	25.4%	33.6%	23.3%	33.2%	35.5%	48.8%

Source: US Census Bureau 2015b

Note: The combined minority population is calculated by total population minus those who reported as white of non-Hispanic descent. American Community Survey estimates are based on data collected over 5 years. The estimates represent the average characteristics of populations between January 2011 and December 2015 and do not represent a single point in time.

Table 21
Assessment Area Populations by Race/Ethnicity (Community Level)

Population	Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation	Empire	Fernley	Gerlach	Lovelock	Nixon	Reno	Sparks	Wadsworth	Nevada
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity of any race	0 0%	0 0%	2,903 15.1%	0 0%	535 23.3%	4 1.3%	58,885 25.1%	25,735 27.5%	80 8.9%	770,553 27.5%
White alone	363 23.3%	20 100%	16,341 85.2%	194 0%	2,017 87.5%	21 6.8%	183,397 78.3%	72,876 78.0%	282 31.3%	1,929,661 69.0%
Black or African American alone	11 0.7%	0 0%	212 1.0%	0 0%	9 0.4%	0 0%	6,440 2.8%	2,781 3.0%	3 0.3%	235,721 8.4%
American Indian or Alaska Native alone	951 61.0%	0 0%	386 2.0%	0 0%	185 8.0%	265 86.0%	2,173 0.9%	1,667 1.8%	482 53.6%	31,393 1.1%
Asian alone	14 0.9%	0 0%	312 1.6%	0 0%	3 <.01%	8 0%	15,302 6.5%	5,338 5.7%	0 0%	214,846 7.7%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	125 8.0%	0 0%	7 0%	0 0%	18 0.8%	6 1.9%	1,869 0.8%	401 0.4%	74 8.2%	17,942 0.8%
Some Other Race	13 0.8%	0 0%	1,035 5.4%	0 0%	25 1.1%	2 0.6%	15,664 6.7%	6,246 6.7%	8 0.9%	246,138 8.8%
Two or more races	81 5.2%	0 0%	892 4.6%	0 0%	49 2.1%	6 1.9%	9,316 4.0%	4,128 4.4%	51 5.7%	122,935 4.4%
Combined minority population	79.0%	0%	23.5%	0%	33.8%	93.2%	38.6%	40.9%	72.7%	48.8%

Source: US Census Bureau 2015b

Note: The combined minority population is calculated by total population minus those who reported as white of non-Hispanic descent. American Community Survey estimates are based on data collected over 5 years. The estimates represent the average characteristics of populations between January 2011 and December 2015 and do not represent a single point in time.

1.6.2 Environmental Consequences

Analysis Methods

The analysis for Environmental Justice is based on US Census Bureau population and ethnicity and racial data, and other relevant literature. **Table 22**, below, summarizes the types of impacts on Environmental Justice and indicators and assumptions for determining the impact under each alternative.

Table 22
Impact Analysis Methods for Environmental Justice

Types of Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts would result from how the varying alternatives would affect resources important to local communities and populations that have been identified for further environmental justice consideration. such as air quality, transportation and traffic, public health and safety, and solid waste. Specific impacts on these resources are discussed in relevant resource sections. Potential for adverse and disproportionate on identified minority and/or low populations are discussed in this section.
Impact Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes in access to resource and resource uses, which could potentially limit ability for traditional, subsistence, cultural, or economic use thereby affecting the social and economic well-being of environmental justice populations. Changes to the level of surface disturbing or disruptive activities allowed under each alternative which could affect the social and economic well-being of environmental justice populations including potential human health and safety concerns.
Assumptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No unique assumptions have been identified for environmental justice analysis.

Direct and Indirect Impacts from Alternatives

Impacts Common to All Event Alternatives

Key Nevadan communities that have been identified as potential “environmental justice populations” of concern include Gerlach, based on the percent of population with low income, and the PLPT, Nixon, and Wadsworth, based on the percent of the population with low income and minority status. (see **Table 19** and **Table 21** for population details). Due to the location of the event, the greatest potential for impacts would occur in Gerlach and the PLPT, as discussed in detail under Alternative A (Proposed Action).

Alternatives Analysis

Alternative A (Proposed Action)

Under Alternative A (Proposed Action), impacts may occur to identified low income or minority communities. The event would be approximately 8.5 miles northeast of the town of Gerlach, and therefore has the potential to result in direct impacts on the members of that community. Similarly, the PLPT Reservation is located along a major travel route to the event and proximity to the event has led to impacts on this population.

With the proposed phased increase in event population to 100,000 bodies on playa at maximum event size, the following impacts brought forward in socioeconomic interviews, public outreach meetings, and official public scoping could be maintained or increased:

- Trespassing on private property in Gerlach by event participants, as well as in the Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation, particularly to Pyramid Lake
- Vandalism or illegal excavation of cultural artifacts: As detailed in the Public Health and Safety Baseline Report (BLM 2018), due to PLPT staffing shortage during the event, there is the potential for vandalism of Tribal property, especially along the east shore of Pyramid Lake. With increased population size this strain on resources and related staffing shortages may be increased.
- Noise levels from event in Gerlach: General impacts from noise are discussed in **Section 3.6.2, Noise**. Recordings at Transfer Station road the monitoring station closest to Gerlach, indicated

that event noise is unlikely to be perceptible, even with an increased population; however, traffic noises could be noticeable, but would remain at levels from 52-56 dBA. This is comparable to an electric toothbrush (which is 50-60 dBA) (Charles M. Salter Associates, Inc. 2018).

- Traffic during event entry and Exodus: General impacts from traffic are discussed in **Section 3.9.2** of the EIS. As noted in this section, impacts on Gerlach would be short-term and intense, peaking at event entry and Exodus. An access route to the event runs through the PLPT Reservation, and traffic is also an issue along this corridor, with Tribal representatives noting that traffic issues interrupt daily activities for community members. With increased bodies on the playa, impacts would be anticipated to increase above current levels for both communities. Under the Proposed Plan, BRC would implement a traffic management plan to minimize impacts of traffic for all populations, including identified communities. Measures would include, but are not limited to, coordination with Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), Nevada Highway Patrol, Washoe County Sheriff's Office, Pershing County Sheriff's Office, and PLPT, use of licensed flaggers along major entry and exit routes, a vehicle pass program, metered release protocols, and encouragement of alternative modes of travel. These measures may reduce the level of impacts.
- Disposal of solid waste by participants: General impacts from solid waste are provided in **Section 3.5.2**, Waste, Hazardous and Solid. Trash and other waste disposed by participants leaving the event would continue to impact surrounding communities, including Gerlach and the PLPT. Potential impacts would be mitigated by measures included in Alternative A (Proposed Action) for BRC to provide off-site clean up along roads and highways surrounding the Burning Man site. Litter and debris collected by BRC's highway restoration crew would be with a minimum of three roadside crews to intermittently patrol portions of SRs 445, 446, and 447, and County Road 34 after the event.
- Water quantity: As discussed in the Economic section, potable water for the event is purchased from the Gerlach Water Conservation District. In the absence of a substitute water sources, if purchased water needs increased with increased bodies on the playa, impacts could occur to Gerlach water supply.
- Air quality: General impacts on air quality are discussed in **Section 3.6.1**, Air Quality. Potential for impacts on the surrounding area, including environmental justice communities, could occur from vehicle emissions and fugitive dust. Mitigation measures by BRC to provide dust abatement along designated routes and streets within the event site would minimize impacts, but emissions are predicted to remain at significant levels. Prevailing winds typically transport the dust northwest of the event, so impacts on identified low income and minority communities are likely to be minimized.
- Criminal activities: Representatives of the PLPT have noted concerns with potential for increase of illegal drugs and illegal activity in the community as a result of Burning Man participants traveling through; these concerns may increase with increased bodies on the playa. BRC has an Illegal Substance Policy which would be communicated to all participants and staff to minimize impacts. Terms on the back of the Burning Man ticket state that the ticketholder agrees to read and abide by all rules in the Burning Man Survival Guide, including the use and possession of illegal drugs, and to follow all applicable federal, state and local laws. In addition to these terms, BRC would educate participants and staff about federal, state and local laws concerning the sale and use of illegal substances.

- Community values: Tribal representatives have noted that crowds, traffic, and other issues related to participants traveling to the event may impact the ability of the community to provide the services and respect for tribal elders that key values for the community. These issues would be likely to increase with an increase in bodies on the playa.

While impacts described above would occur indiscriminately on area communities, there is the potential for disproportionate adverse impacts on low income and minority populations in Gerlach and the PLPT due to proximity of these populations in relation to the Event and common Event travel routes. The inclusion of mitigation measures and communication with communities regarding Event issues would minimize the level of impacts as discussed in relevant resource sections. Short-term impacts may remain at locally significant levels on traffic (based on unacceptable LOS levels for some areas roads at peak use) as discussed in the DEIS, **Section 3.9.2**, Transportation and Traffic.

Executive Order 12898 requires Federal agencies to ensure opportunities for effective public participation by potentially affected low-income populations, minority populations, or tribes. Meeting to gather input on event issues were conducted in December 2017. These meetings were announced by press release and conducted in Gerlach, Reno, and Lovelock, Nevada. Official public scoping meetings were then held in Fernley and Lovelock in July 2018. These meetings provided opportunity for input from all community members, including those in identified environmental justice communities. In addition, a socioeconomic interview was conducted with members of the Gerlach Community Advisory Board (CAB) to gather input on social and economic concerns specific to that community. Consultation and informational meetings to discuss Alternative A (Proposed Action) were also held with the PLPT on January 24, 2018.

Specific measures have also been undertaken by BRC to involve local community members in event planning and reduce impacts on these communities. BRC is highly involved with the Gerlach community. Approximately eight year-round employees live in Gerlach, and BRC employees and volunteers are involved in the Gerlach CAB. BRC also maintains permanent building space in town for storage of materials and operations. BRC provides free internet for citizens of the town year-round.

Measures included in Alternative A (Proposed Action) would facilitate coordination with local communities and provide opportunities to address environmental justice concerns. BRC would meet with event cooperators to plan, prepare, and debrief each year. Event cooperators would include BLM and those agencies with federal, state, county or tribal jurisdiction, such as the Federal Aviation Administration, Pershing County, Washoe County, PLPT, and the State of Nevada.

Alternative B

Under Alternative B, the event size would be reduced to 50,000 bodies on playa. With the reduction in event size it is anticipated that identified concerns for environmental justice communities as discussed under Alternative A (Proposed Action), would likewise be decreased in intensity, assuming implementation of measures to minimize impacts as discussed above.

Alternative C

Under Alternative C, the event would shift to a different location on the playa. Primary access, however, would remain at Eight Mile Road. As a result, impacts on Gerlach and Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation are anticipated to remain similar to those described in Alternative A (Proposed Action). Moving the

event may result in a reduction in potential for traffic congestion-related impacts on local communities, especially along County Road 34. This is because vehicles would be able to queue in the 16-lane on-playa entrance road rather than a comparable distance of the single-lane County Road 34. Compared with other action alternatives, a larger on-playa vehicle queuing capacity would result in correspondingly less traffic congestion and delays along SR 447, allowing for a freer flow of traffic.

Alternative D

Under this Alternative, the BLM would issue an SRP for the Burning Man Event with the same persons on-playa cap and conditions as the 2018 event, including total bodies on-playa of 80,000. Potential impacts on identified environmental justice communities would occur similar to those described in Alternative A (Proposed Action). Without the phased increase in bodies on the playa, the intensity of impacts would remain similar to current conditions.

Alternative E

Under Alternative E, the BLM would not issue an SRP and BRC would not implement event control and management measures. Due to the historical nature of the event, Alternative E would likely result in an unauthorized gathering on the playa. In the absence of an organized event structure, some issues in identified environmental justice communities could be increased, for example, with a lack of limits on vehicles accessing the playa or organized traffic management, local traffic impacts could be elevated. The potential for sustained participation in an unauthorized event would likely dissipate over time, therefore related impacts would likewise decrease over time.

Recommended Mitigation

Refer to mitigation measures reported in other resource and resource use sections.

Cumulative Impacts

Past, Present and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions. Past and present actions that have affected identified low income and minority populations include past Burning Man Events other recreation activities on the NCA. It is unlikely that dispersed recreation would result in effects that would disproportionately affect these populations. Reasonably foreseeable future actions that could affect identified low income and minority populations include communication, energy, and minerals projects as defined in the Reasonably Foreseeable Future Action discussion of the EIS. Depending on the timing of construction and development of projects, there is potential for impacts on traffic in these communities. Similarly, transportation projects could contribute to traffic congestion in area roadways and may further impact area traffic. In the long term, projects could reduce congestion in certain areas once completed.

Cumulative Impacts from All Event Alternatives. The Burning Man Events would contribute to cumulative effects on identified minority and low-income populations primarily due to an increase in waste and traffic. It is anticipated that proposed development activities would include mitigation to ensure that the effects of these actions would be minimized. It is unlikely that these actions would combine with the Burning Man Events to result in cumulative disproportionate effects on minority populations and cause environmental justice impacts.

Alternative E: No Event Alternative: If a large, informal gathering occurred at the playa in the absence of a formal SRP, then contributions to cumulative environmental justice effects could would need to be offset by BLM management and enforcement.

I.7 SOCIAL CONDITIONS

I.7.1 Affected Environment

The social conditions section is an overview of the Assessment Area demographic conditions and housing profiles. Baseline Assessment Area data were collected using the Headwater Economics Economic Profile System and other publicly available data sources, including the US Census Bureau, Bureau of Economic Analysis, and Bureau of Labor Statistics. An overview of the historical social context and recent trends is provided, including an overview of the Burning Man Event. Information about values and perceptions of the Burning Man Event is provided, based on data from the BRC, socioeconomic interviews with local stakeholders, and surveys provided at public outreach meetings.

Socioeconomic Assessment Area Demographic Conditions

Table 23, Socioeconomic Assessment Area Population Trends, provides 2010 and 2016 population data for counties, cities, and communities in the Assessment Area. Population projections are also provided for the county and state level for 2020 and 2025. It should be noted that the population decline seen in Empire is related to the closing of the gypsum mine in Empire in January 2011. The mine had employed approximately 100 people in the community prior to closure. The shuttered mine and company-owned town were sold in 2016 (Reno Gazette Journal 2016).

Table 23
Socioeconomic Assessment Area Population Trends

Jurisdiction	2010	2016	2020	2025
Churchill County	24,877	24,148	27,299	29,355
Humboldt County	16,528	17,091	17,874	17,131
Lyon County	51,980	51,897	55,107	57,603
Pershing County	6,753	6,690	6,794	6,615
Washoe County	421,407	439,914	469,422	502,559
Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation	1,660	1,581	N/A	N/A
Empire	217	20	N/A	N/A
Fernley	19,368	19,228	N/A	N/A
Gerlach	206	148	N/A	N/A
Lovelock	1,894	1,854	N/A	N/A
Nixon	374	301	N/A	N/A
Reno	225,221	237,121	N/A	N/A
Sparks	90,264	94,718	N/A	N/A
Wadsworth	834	874	N/A	N/A
Nevada	2,700,551	2,839,172	2,959,642	3,083,970

Source: US Census Bureau 2010, 2016, Nevada State Demographer’s Office 2014

Note: N/A represents no available data. No population projection data available for the community level

Socioeconomic Assessment Area Housing and Temporary Accommodation

Current housing trends for the Assessment Area are summarized in **Table 24**. All jurisdictions have homeowner vacancy rates of 4.2 percent or below. Rental vacancy rates in the Assessment Area range from a low of 5.4 percent in Humboldt and Lyon Counties to a high 19.0 percent in Lovelock. Vacancy rate data are not available for the cities of Empire or Gerlach.

Table 24
Socioeconomic Assessment Area Housing Data

Jurisdiction	2016 Housing Units	2016 Homeowner Vacancy Rate	2016 Rental Vacancy Rate
Churchill County	10,683	1.6	8.4
Humboldt County	7,223	3.1	5.4
Lyon County	22,427	3.4	5.4
Pershing County	2,403	1.4	12.3
Washoe County	187,716	1.9	6.6
Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation	665	0.5	10.5
Empire	36	N/A	N/A
Fernley	7,694	2.0	10.3
Gerlach	162	N/A	N/A
Lovelock	997	4.2	19.0
Nixon	149	0	6.1
Reno	103,210	2.3	7.0
Sparks	38,476	1.3	6.3
Wadsworth	343	1.0	13.1
Nevada	1,200,517	2.2	9.1

Source: US Census Bureau 2016
Note: N/A represents no available data

Participants at the Burning Man Event may utilize temporary housing such as hotels, RV parks, and camping. Based on 2017 data, there were approximately 4.3 million hotels rooms in the Reno-Sparks area (Reno Sparks Visitor Convention Bureau (RSVCA) 2017a). Room rate and occupancy peak in the months of August and September (approximately 78 percent occupancy in hotels and room rate of \$123 [RSVCA 2017b]). Room occupancy tax is further discussed under the Economics section. Typically, all hotels in Reno, Sparks, Fallon, and surrounding communities are completely booked in the period around the event. Hotel industry representatives estimated that there is about a ten day to two-week time period of increased occupancy.

RV parks may also see increased occupancy as a result of the Burning Man Event. Based on RSVCA data, occupied spaces in RV parks in the Reno-Sparks area peak in September. Since 2011, cash occupied spaces in September have increased from 10,843 to 15,019 in 2017. While the specific number attributable to Burning Man is unknown, BRC census data from 2017 indicates that 27.4 percent of participants stayed in an RV or camper at the event (BRC 2017b).

Socioeconomic interviews with those in the hotel industry and local community representatives indicated that other regional events coinciding with the Burning Man Event or occurring shortly before or after the event may also impact room rates and availability. Events include the Best in the West Nugget Rib-Cookoff in Sparks, also occurring over Labor Day weekend, as well as Reno-Sparks Hot August Nights in mid-August and the Reno National Championships, Air Races, and Street Vibrations Fall Rally in mid-September. In addition, summer holidays traditionally represent peak occupancy time for Reno hotels. As a result, it is difficult to determine the specific impact of Burning Man participants on hotel occupancy and rate. However, a representative from a hotel in Sparks estimated that the increase in room rates at his hotel are 70 percent attributable to Burning Man. Impacts on hotel occupancy and rate are highest in Reno and would be decreased in communities that are not along the major travel routes.

Event Attendee Demographics

Survey questions in the BRC Census provide insight into event attendee demographics. Data over the last five years shows an increasing percent of international participants. In 2013, approximately 81.7 percent of attendees were from the US, while in 2017, this number had declined to 76.2 percent. Of attendees from the US, approximately 47.1 percent were from California and 5.6 percent from Nevada (see **Table 25**).

**Table 25
Participant State of Residence (2017)**

State	Percent of US Participants
California	47.1
New York	8.2
Washington	6.2
Nevada	5.6
Oregon	4.4
Colorado	3.9
Texas	2.4
Illinois	2.1
Arizona	2.1
Utah	1.5
Florida	1.5
Massachusetts	1.5

Source: BRC 2017b

Note: Percent reported is percent of participants by state for US participants (76.2 percent of total participants)

Survey data on age of participants shows that the median age of attendees was 34 in 2017. The percent of participants age 19 and below has slightly declined over the last 5 years, from 2.4 percent in 2013 to 1.1 percent in 2017 (BRC 2017b).

BRC census data indicates that the percent of participants identifying as ethnic or racial minorities is increasing, however the population of event participants remains less diverse than the general population. In 2017, approximately 17.1 percent of the population identified as belonging to a minority group (i.e., a group other than white/non-Hispanic). In 2017, this number had increased to 22.9 percent. In contrast, the percent of minorities increased from 36.0 in 2013 to 37.9 in 2017 estimates for the US population based on US Census Bureau data (US Census Bureau 2017).

Median personal income levels of event participants have been increasing over the past 5 years, climbing from \$51,100 in 2013 to \$60,700 in 2017 (BRC 2017b), an 18.8 percent increase in nominal values (not corrected for inflation). In addition, the percent of the population who makes over \$100,000 in income has increased from approximately 21.2 percent in 2013 to 27.1 percent in 2017. This is a greater increase than the per capita personal income reported for the US, which increased from \$44,489 in 2013 to \$50,392 in 2017, a 13.3 percent increase in nominal terms (Bureau of Economic Analysis 2018). While higher income of participants may indicate the potential for higher spending for the event, it should be noted that some of the highest earning participants fly directly to the event at the Black Rock City airport, and therefore are less likely to spend money in the local economy on route to the event.

Social Contributions

BRC provides social contributions for local communities in the form of cash and non-cash contributions. Some contributions include event credentials to community members of Gerlach and the PLPT Reservation, civic partnerships, the Black Rock Solar program, as well as approximately \$36,500 of cash donations to organizations throughout Nevada, including local organization in Lovelock, Gerlach, and northern Nevada in 2017 (BRC 2017a).

Values and Perceptions by Event Participants

The ten principles of Burning Man were established in 2004, by Burning Man co-founder Larry Harvey. These principles provide guidelines for the Burning Man Event ethos and culture, and include the following:

- Radical inclusion
- Gifting
- Decommodification
- Radical self-reliance
- Radical self-expression
- Communal effort
- Civic responsibility
- Leave No Trace®
- Participation
- Immediacy

As the Burning Man Event has grown from an event with less than 50 people on Baker Beach in San Francisco, to the current event of 80,000 participants in the Nevada desert, change has been inevitable. Burning Man has become a cultural phenomenon. Every year, media coverage around the time of event results in a barrage of viewpoints about the event and event growth, both positive and negative. The original Burning Man event has expanded to include other activities and initiatives throughout the year, based on the 10 principles, including but not limited to the Burning Man arts programs and civic initiatives such as the Burners Without Borders community volunteer program, and the Black Rock Solar green energy program. In addition, participants have opportunities to participate in global and regional networking events to connect with like-minded individuals. Additional information on the history principles, and general information related to the event is available at the Burning Man website, see <https://burningman.org/culture/>.

The BRC census collects data on values and perceptions from participants. In the 2017 BRC census, 78.7 percent of attendees felt that the 10 principles were important or very important to them, and 73.3 percent of all respondents felt that the 10 principles were essential to creating an authentic Burning Man experience (BRC 2017b). Participants in Burning Man value the sense of community at the event; over 57 percent of respondents indicated that the primary reason for attending the event was to “feel a sense of belonging”, 84.5 percent of respondents felt mostly or very connected to others at the event, and 53.2 percent consider the “burner community a family”, In addition, survey respondents reported that they had brought these principles back to their lives off the playa. Approximately 50 percent reported that they were inspired to volunteer more after attending the event, 64 percent reported they

incorporated the 10 principles into their workplace, and 45 percent noted changes in their neighborhoods or communities after the event in line with the ten principles (BRC 2017b).

Some participants feel that recent changes in the event are not in keeping with the principles of Burning Man. For example, recent years have seen an increase in turnkey camps where participants can contribute a fee to a private party to have all event food and accommodations provided. Use of such turnkey camps has become popular with celebrities and tech industry executives. These camps are not sponsored by BRC and information on costs for services are not available, however, media coverage recently has discussed luxury camps and reported that some cost as much as \$50,000 for all-inclusive services (see for example, NY Post 2018, SF Gate 2017, NY Times 2014, Washington Post 2018). Some participants feel that Burning Man's radicalism is being challenged by its appropriation (Fortune 2018). BRC notes that a camp that is truly commercial in nature, meaning that it seeks to reap financial gain, publicly advertises for customers and does not contribute to the greater community, is not in line with Burning Man's principles (BRC 2018). However, there are mixed feelings regarding changes to event participants. Many participants feel that the presence of celebrities and other non-traditional burners doesn't diminish the overall spirit and experience on the playa, if those participants embrace the principles of Burning Man (Washington Post 2018).

Minors at the event were noted as a concern by local communities. In 2016, the BRC census polled event participants on the issue of child safety; 70.5 percent of respondents believed that children were safe at the event, 19.3 percent cited that they were unsure, and 10.5 percent felt that children were not safe. Of those who felt that children were unsafe, 8.5 percent cited psychological dangers and 6.8 percent cited physical dangers as the primary concern. In addition, regarding the question of whether the event should be age restricted, 68.4 percent of respondents said no, and 13.2 percent said yes in 2017 data (BRC 2017b).

Values and Perceptions by Local Communities

Based on input received from public scoping, socioeconomic interviews with local communities and stakeholders, and input from tribal leaders, there is a wide range of perception of the Burning Man Event.

When asked if the event was in alignment with local community cultures and values, answers varied based on community. City of Reno participants stated that the community has an "overwhelmingly positive" perception of Burning Man, and the art and culture that it contributes to the city are in alignment with the values of the community. Participants also stated that Burning Man has changed the image of the Reno area on a global scale, making it more attractive to younger people and associating the area with progressive thinking. In contrast, representatives from Pershing County, which cited its small-town agrarian values, felt that the actions permitted at the event (such as drug use and nudity) conflicted with the values of their community. Of particular concern was exposure of minors to these issues. In the PLPT Reservation, representatives expressed concern about increased risk of drug use and other criminal elements brought through the reservation by event participant traffic. The PLPT recently released a Burning Man Safety Plan which provided goals to reduce potential issues with drugs, particularly opioids. Representatives also noted that tribal values include respect for and support of tribal elders. Representatives feel that nudity and conduct of participants as well as congestion from the event are not in alignment with values and impact the ability to support tribal elders (PLPT 2018).

There was also a spectrum of responses related to the impacts that the event had on local communities. Participants in Fernley, Reno, and Washoe County socioeconomic interviews noted that there can be significant sales increases and sales tax contributions due to purchase of supplies by participants on route to the event. Grocery stores, gas stations, storage units, and other shops experience “astronomical” sales during this time. Socioeconomic interviews with local hotels and casinos highlighted the contributions to hotel taxes and impacts on room occupancy; hotels experience full capacity, even with rate increases during the event. Other vendors attempt to capitalize on this event with related events and sales. However, some of these vendors are itinerant, with no revenue returning to the community. In addition to the above impacts, Reno reported that the impact of the event on the airport is significant: the event increases revenue at the airport between 11 and 15 million dollars. Without the event, the airport would suffer a serious loss in revenue. On the other end of the spectrum, in Pershing County, the event is seen to result in costs to community services (such as law enforcement and courts) and with little economic contributions, as Lovelock and other Pershing County towns are not main stops along participant travel routes.

Participants in socioeconomic interviews in Washoe County, Lyon/Fernley, and Gerlach also noted that there are trade-offs related to participant travel to and from the event through their communities. Interviewees identified a wide range of impacts on community services caused by the Burning Man Event, but the issue identified by almost all communities was the increased demands on waste management. Resorts require extra dumpsters to keep pace with waste, and communities as a whole see increased needs for waste management as well as an uptick in litter during and after the event. Law enforcement, fire, and EMS services also experience an increase in demand related to entry and exit to the event, such as individuals experiencing minor medical issues like dehydration, and incidence of crime; however, these reports varied by community. Most communities reported impacts from traffic. Air quality declines due to increased dust levels were also noted as a concern. Damage to roadways and costs associated with disposal of waste and abandoned vehicles along roads were also noted in multiple socioeconomic interviews. For local residents or business owners along travel routes to and from the playa, the traffic of tens of thousands of participants traveling through the area can be a substantial inconvenience and disruption to daily life for the time leading up to, during, immediately after the Burning Man Event. This may represent impacts on quality of life for area residents. Impacts are the highest in the area immediately surrounding the event, in particular in the town of Gerlach. Representatives from the PLPT also noted that the economic benefits of the event did not outweigh the impacts on the community. Although some Tribal members who act as roadside vendors may receive some economic benefit from the increased traffic from participants on route to the event, the interruption of daily life, and costs to services outweigh these benefits. Specific social concerns noted include loss of productivity (i.e., at tribal clinic) and ability to perform daily activities due to traffic associated with the event, and lack of cultural respect and service for Tribal members in local stores due to overcrowding during event. Other community services impacted include due to increased demand include the public utilities district trash and waste management, emergency medical services, and law enforcement.

Most communities interviewed did not specifically report that the demand of services outpaced their ability to meet them with current staffing levels; however, increased demand was noted as a concern, particularly for Pershing and the PLPT. Gerlach Fire Department noted that a quarter of their demand over the entire year occurs during the event, with staff doubling at that time. Gerlach also reported that it had increasing concerns related to their water supply due to increased demand during the event. The

community relies on supplemental water supply sales to keep delivery low for residents, but some feel that a cap on sales is needed to ensure a sufficient supply for the community for needs like fire control.

In addition, comments received at public scoping and in socioeconomic interviews noted that the event can impact other uses in the NCA which are important to local community members, by making the playa temporarily unavailable, as well as by limiting access to other portions of the NCA. These include activities such as hunting and rocket launching as discussed in **Section 3.9.1**, Recreation.

The communities supplied varied responses as to whether BRC provided any direct support to the community to help mitigate impacts. Some counties like Pershing reported contractual payments from the BRC. Other counties reported that BRC makes donations to nonprofits, and in Reno, BRC provides grants for the arts. In Gerlach, BRC donated to a number of community events and services, including the fire department and senior center. BRC also provides free internet to Gerlach and eight full-time jobs.

When asked what specific changes could be made to Burning Man to benefit the communities it affects, interviewees provided a wide variety of suggestions. Reno suggested greater support from the BRC to local arts programs, especially in the schools. Other entities suggested that BRC provide support to road maintenance programs and companies that dispose of abandoned vehicles. Others like Fernley and Gerlach suggested an extra charge of \$1-2 in the tickets that would go to the cities in order to offset impacts. Other counties suggested that BRC better manage issues related to traffic, air quality, and waste disposal issues. Community representatives noted the need for increased communication of BRC with local government and requested involvement in the communities on a year-round basis, rather than just during the event. Pershing County, which reported the greatest impacts from crime, provided a number of recommendations including limiting attendance to those over the age of 18 or 21, that a ban on drugs and weapons should be strictly enforced, and those violating the no drugs policy should be removed from the event.

Socioeconomic Interview Summary

A series of ten socioeconomic interviews were conducted in December 2017 to January 2018 to collect information on the view of local communities and stakeholders surrounding the Burning Man Event, and the social and economic impacts and benefits of the event. Local communities and counties, and state and local agencies with potential to be impacted the event were invited to participate in socioeconomic interviews, a representative invitation letter is included in **Appendix A**, Socioeconomic Interview Material and Records. In addition, an inquiry was sent to the Reno Chamber of Commerce to solicit participation from local businesses.

Organizations and local business owners who participated in interviews are displayed in **Table 26**, Socioeconomic Interviews. Interview participants ranged from urban to rural, and the values and perceptions held in their communities varied accordingly. The input received from participants is summarized in the Values and Perceptions of Local Communities Section. Interview records are included in **Appendix A**.

Table 26
Socioeconomic Interview Summary

Organization	Meeting Date	Meeting Location	Title/Department of Participants
City of Fernley/Lyons County	December 4, 2017	Fernley City Manager's Office, Fernley, NV	Lyon County code enforcement, Lyon County Sherriff's office, City of Fernley city manager's office, City of Fernley- Building official and enforcement City of Fernley- planning director
Gerlach/Empire Community Advisory Board	December 4, 2017	Gerlach Community Center, Gerlach, NV	CAB members
Fairfield Inn of Sparks, NV	December 5, 2017	Fairfield Inn and Suites, Sparks, NV	General Manager Fairfield Inn
Washoe County	December 5, 2017	Washoe County Complex, Reno, NV	Planning Department – Senior Planner, Operations Division Director, Building and Planning Division Manager, Grants Administrator
City of Reno	December 5, 2017	Office of City Manager, Reno, NV	City of Reno Police Department, City of Reno- Public Art Program Coordinator, City of Reno- Arts, Culture, and Events Coordinator, City of Reno- Asst. City Manager, City of Reno- Management Analyst, Reno-Tahoe International Airport representative
Cal-Nevada and Milne Towing	December 6, 2017	Cal-Nevada Towing, Sparks, NV	Owner and representatives , Cal-Nevada Towing, Owner and representatives, Milne Towing
Churchill County	December 6, 2017	Churchill County Administrative offices, Fallon NV	Churchill County manager, Churchill Economic Development Authority
Peppermill Resort	December 7, 2017	Peppermill Resort, Reno, NV	Director of Marketing Operations, Peppermill Resort
Pershing County	December 8, 2017	Lovelock County Courthouse, Lovelock, NV	Pershing County Commissioner, Pershing County District Attorneys Office, Pershing County Economic Development Authority
Nevada Department of Transportation Planning Department	January 5, 2018	Phone Interview	NDOT Planning Dept. representative
Gerlach Fire Department	January 17, 2018	Phone Interview	Gerlach Fire Dept. Chief

Nonmarket Values

Economists sometimes divide all goods and services into two broad categories: market, and non-market. “Market” goods and services are those for which a market exists or can exist, meaning that it is possible to buy and sell those goods and services. Nonmarket values reveal the benefits individuals attribute to experiences of the environment, uses of natural resources, or the existence of particular ecological conditions that do not involve market transactions, and therefore lack prices. Public lands provide both

market and non-market goods and services. An example of a non-market value affected by the management of public lands is the supply of clean water for people and wildlife.

Ecosystem goods and services include a range of human benefits resulting from appropriate ecosystem structure and function, such as flood control from intact wetlands. Some involve commodities sold in markets. Others do not commonly involve markets, and thus reflect nonmarket values. Following the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA) Classification System (MEA 2005) developed a frequently referenced classification of ecosystem services into four categories:

- 1) Provisioning services (i.e., food, water, forest products)
- 2) Supporting services (i.e., Soil formation, Waste treatment and nutrient cycling)
- 3) Regulating services (i.e., climate regulation, disease regulation, flood regulation)
- 4) Cultural services (i.e., spiritual, recreational, aesthetic, inspiration or education benefits)

A broad range of ecosystem services are supported by the playa and the NCA on which the Burning Man event is located. Some examples of goods and services with potential to be impacted by proposed management are shown in **Table 27**, Planning Area Ecosystem Goods and Services Supported by BLM Administered Lands.

Table 27
Planning Area Ecosystem Goods and Services Supported by BLM Administered Lands

Provisioning	Supporting	Regulating	Cultural
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinking water • Hunting habitat and resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste treatment and nutrient cycling • Habitat for fish and wildlife 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to Clean, Fresh Air and Water • Regulation of climate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Views and Scenery for local recreationalists and communities • Cultural or Spiritual Resources • Recreation Sites

Source: based on MEA 2005

1.7.2 Environmental Consequences

Analysis Methods

The analysis for Social Values is based on information provided by BRC, socioeconomic interviews with local community representatives and stakeholders, and other relevant literature. **Table 28**, below, summarizes the types of impacts on Social Values and indicators and assumptions for determining the nature and types of impact under each alternative.

Table 28
Impact Analysis Methods for Social Values

Types of Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts on temporary or permanent population changes, interaction of participants with communities, or other event management that alters the real or perceived impacts of the event on local communities' social values • Impacts on other land uses (i.e., recreation) that impact local residents' quality of life • Impacts on event size or management that alters perception of the event for event participants • Impacts on resources on the playa which provide non-market values
Impact Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change to the social setting or values for area communities are a result of event activities • Change to the social setting or values for event participants, including the adherence to the 10 principles of Burning Man. • Changes to non-market values including but not limited to air quality, visual setting, and noise, as a result of event activities
Assumptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No specific assumptions have been identified for social values.

Direct and Indirect Impacts from Alternatives

Impacts Common to All Event Alternatives

The Burning Man Event has the potential to result in impacts on local communities' social setting. While most impacts would be short-term and limited to disruption due to the temporary population increase in the area associated with the event, event actions that conflict with social values of local communities may be perceived as longer-term impacts.

In addition, all event alternatives have the potential to result in short-term impacts on non-market values provided by the playa. These include values associated with air quality, climate, playa resources, noise and visual impacts for other land users or communities and water quality impacts. The level of impacts would vary by alternative as described below.

Alternatives Analysis

Alternative A (Proposed Action)

Values and Perceptions of Community Members: Under Alternative A (Proposed Action), event activities have the potential to impact community values and social setting. As noted in the Affected Environment, impacts can include the disruption of the quality of life for local communities. These impacts are short-term in nature and include but are not limited to increased traffic, trash, dust, and other waste along roadsides. Impacts could occur over the 78 days of occupancy of the playa each year over the 10-year planning period but would be concentrated in the few weeks surrounding the event each year. As discussed in **Section 3.9.2** and **Section 3.5.2**, impacts would be highest for communities closest to the event, such as Gerlach. With a phased increase in event size, there is potential for impacts to be elevated over current condition with a gradual increase in impacts, with maximum impacts at maximum event size. Measures included in Alternative A (Proposed Action) and detailed in relevant resources sections to minimize impacts could reduce the impacts on community social setting.

Additional impacts may occur where community members feel a disconnect between event actions and community values. Alternative A (Proposed Action) does not include an age limitation on minors, therefore this issue would continue to be in conflict with some local communities' values, including Pershing County and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Indian Reservation. Concerns about exposure of minors

to nudity and illegal drug use as well as concerns about safety of minors would continue to be an issue. BRC's Plan for Safety & Welfare of Minors at Burning Man included in the annual operation plan would provide protocols to minimize impacts on minors.

Similarly, overall use of drugs and alcohol at the event are likely to remain a concern. In Alternative A (Proposed Action), BRC has an Illegal Substance Policy which would be communicated to all participants and staff to minimize impacts. Terms on the back of the Burning Man ticket state that the ticketholder agrees to read and abide by all rules in the Burning Man Survival Guide, including the use and possession of illegal drugs, and to follow all applicable federal, state and local laws. In addition to these terms, BRC would educate participants and staff about federal, state and local laws concerning the sale and use of illegal substances.

Positive contributions to local communities from BRC would also continue or be elevated under the Alternative A (Proposed Action). For example, social contributions from BRC would likely continue under Alternative A (Proposed Action), supporting the arts. BRC has previously provided art from the event for display in Reno. Money collected from ice sales at event supports donations to local organizations; therefore, increased ice sales could support increased contributions.

Impacts on other land users: Other recreationalists may continue to be impacted by the event under Alternative A (Proposed Action). As detailed in **Section 3.9.1**, the two-phased Closure Order under Alternative A (Proposed Action) would allow other permitted activities to operate closer to the event perimeter once the Closure Order boundary retracts in size after the event. However, following the event, the smaller Closure Order and traffic associated with take down activities and debris clean up could preclude access to preferred launch locations for rocket launching, therefore this activity is likely to be impacted. Similarly, heavy congestion on nearby roadways, especially during peak event arrival and departure times, would deter or limit access for non-event attendees. The greatest potential impact would be on those participating in big game hunting. Outside of the Event time period, visitors to the NCA, and the values and perceptions of these visitors, may be altered by the Event. Past participants are often interested in returning to the NCA. These visitors may desire different experiences and land uses than those who have traditionally visited the NCA. As a result, there is a potential for conflicts between users on the NCA.

Values and Perceptions of Event Participants: with increased event size, there may be increased potential for changes to the values and setting of the event. Increasing the number of participants arriving via bus or plane due to limitations on vehicle passes may result in the need for additional turn-key camps to support burners who cannot transport supplies. Incremental increase of event size may result in gradual changes overtime, and allow adaptation of the event, reducing the level of impacts on event setting. As noted in the Affected Environment, however, if attendees attend the event in spirit of the 10 principles, non-traditional burners and population size may not impact the setting and values at the event.

Non-Market Values: An increase to the event size under Alternative A (Proposed Action) has the potential to result in elevated impacts on non-market values supported by the playa, as identified in Affected Environment. Impacts on air quality and climate conditions a discussed in **Section 3.6.1** may occur as a result from increased emissions from vehicles and aircraft and due to increased particulate matter from playa dust. These impacts may degrade the quality of air or contribute to changing climate conditions impacting the value of these services. Similarly, any degradation of water quality could result in direct impacts on this supporting service, as well as impacts on hunting or drinking water. Likewise,

impacts on habitat for fish and wildlife could impact the intrinsic value from these species, or the value from hunting certain species. In addition, noise and visual impacts from the event may impact the recreational setting for users or the setting for communities, impacting the value of recreation experiences or other cultural services. Measures included in Alternative A (Proposed Action) and detailed in relevant resources sections to minimize impacts could minimize the reduction in non-market values as a result of event activities, but potential for impacts would remain.

Alternative B

Impacts under Alternative B would be similar in nature to the Alternative A (Proposed Action). Under Alternative B, reducing bodies on the playa to 50,000 would reduce the intensity of impacts on local communities as compared to Alternative A (Proposed Action). In addition, potential for impacts on non-market values would be reduced. Impacts on other land users may be reduced by decreased traffic levels, however, Alternative B would not include a phased Closure Order, therefore a larger area would be closed throughout the entire 78-day closure period as compared to Alternative A (Proposed Action), potentially impacting access to other activities.

Reducing event size would reduce the ability of participants to attend the event, as well as the connection with the 10 principles that participants value from the event.

Alternative C

Impacts under Alternative C would remain similar to those under Alternative A (Proposed Action). Moving the event location to an alternative site on the playa is not likely to further impact community or participant social setting; Gerlach would remain the closest town to the event, and travel routes would remain similar. Moving the event may result in a reduction in potential for traffic congestion-related impacts on local communities and related quality of life impacts. This is because vehicles would be able to queue in the 16-lane on-playa entrance road rather than a comparable distance of the single-lane County Road 34. Impacts on recreation activities could be increased under Alternative C due to increased conflict with ongoing events (see **Section 3.9.1**).

Removing the incremental increase in event size may result in more rapid changes to the event and increase the potential for changes to perception of the event by participants.

As under Alternative B, not including a phased Closure Order would result in a larger area remaining closed throughout the entire 78-day closure period as compared to Alternative A (Proposed Action), potentially impacting access to other activities.

For non-market values, impacts could be increased should the event occur in areas with previously undisturbed resources or with unique values.

Alternative D

Impacts under Alternative D would be similar in nature to those described under Alternative A (Proposed Action). Due to the lack of incremental population increase, impacts on local communities from trash, traffic and other factors would be reduced compared to Alternative A (Proposed Action). Similar to the Affected Environment, noted issues of concern would likely remain but could be mitigated by measures included in Alternative A (Proposed Action) or as stipulations to reduce impacts on local

communities. Potential for impacts on event participants, non-market values and other land uses would remain as described under affected environment.

Alternative E

Under Alternative E, the BLM would not issue an SRP and BRC would not implement event control and management measures. Due to the historical nature of the event, Alternative E would likely result in an unauthorized gathering on the playa. In the absence of an organized event structure, some identified social issues associated with the event could be increased. For example, potential impacts of trash and traffic concern, as well as concerns about illegal substance abuse and law enforcement issues could all be increased in the absence of a formal SRP. BLM management would be required to minimize impacts on local communities' quality of life as well as non-market values in the area.

Additional impacts would occur for those in local communities. Those who value the arts and cultural contributions of the event would be impacted by a lack of a formal event and discontinued coordination of social contributions. As discussed in socioeconomic interviews, Reno values the event for cultural contributions as well as for the changes it has brought to the perception of the city. In interviews with community representatives in Gerlach, attendees noted that the event brings in new life to a community that might otherwise die. Without the economic contributions and social interactions with the event, the social and economic setting of Gerlach would be drastically altered.

In addition, the lack of a sanctioned event would result in significant impacts for participants. As discussed in the Affected Environment, participants place high value on the principles of the event, and the opportunities to expand the experience through interactions with the Burning Man community throughout the year in networking and cultural events. In the absence of a sanctioned event, these opportunities would be reduced.

The potential for sustained participation in an unauthorized event would likely dissipate over time. As such, impacts on law enforcement, trash, crowds and other issues impacting quality of life of local communities would be reduced, however, potential impacts for those that value the contributions of the event as local community members or participants, would be increased.

Recommended Mitigation

Refer to mitigation measures reported in other resource and resource use sections.

Cumulative Impacts

Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions. Past and present actions that have affected local communities and attendee social setting and non-market values include past Burning Man Events other recreation activities on the NCA.

Reasonably foreseeable future actions that could affect social setting and non-market values include communication, energy and minerals projects as well as transportation projects as defined in the Reasonably Foreseeable Action Discussion of the EIS.

Cumulative Impacts from All Event Alternatives. The Burning Man Events would contribute to cumulative effects due to a potential for increased traffic, noise, and waste resulting in short-term disruptions to community setting. Depending on the timing of construction and development of projects, there is

potential for Burning Man related impacts on traffic and construction activities to result in greater impacts on local social setting. In addition, development projects have potential to result in additive impacts on the natural setting on the playa, resulting in a decreased value of non-market service provided. Mitigation measures and best management practices employed in projects would support decreased levels of impacts. Impacts under all alternatives would be limited to the closure period, with the peak contribution to cumulative impacts in the weeks surrounding the event under all Alternatives. Potential for contributions to cumulative impacts would be greatest under Alternative A (Proposed Action), due to the increased level of impacts from increased bodies on the playa under this alternative.

Alternative E: No Event Alternative: If a large, informal gathering occurred at the playa in the absence of a formal SRP, then contributions to cumulative effects would need to be offset by BLM management and enforcement.

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Appendix A

Socioeconomic Interview Material and Records

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Appendix A. Socioeconomic Interview Material and Records

Contents

Sample Interview Invitation

Interview Talking Points

Interview Records

Gerlach Fire Department

Nevada Department of Transportation

City of Reno

Cal-Nevada Towing and Milne Towing

Churchill County

Fairfield Inn of Sparks, Nevada

City of Fernley/Lyons County

Gerlach/Empire Community Advisory Board

Peppermill Resort

Pershing County

Washoe County

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United States Department of the Interior



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In Reply Refer To:
NVW03500-19-01
2930(NV030.02)
Topic: Burning Man Socioeconomic Interviews

Dave Solaro
Assistant County Manager
Washoe County Manager's Office
1001 E. Ninth Street
Reno, NV 89512

Dear Mr. Solaro,

The United States (US) Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Black Rock Field Office is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Burning Man Special Recreation Permit. As the federal lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the BLM is tasked with analyzing the biophysical, social, and other relevant effects of the proposed action. As part of the EIS, the BLM will look at social and economic conditions of areas in the vicinity of the event. The BLM will analyze how these conditions have been affected by the event in the past and how they could be impacted by the event in the future. To support this analysis, the BLM is seeking input on social and economic topics from county, community, and tribal representatives. The BLM's EIS contractor will be conducting interviews to solicit input on:

- 1) The current social and economic conditions in the study area;
- 2) Key community values;
- 3) The current impacts of the Burning Man event on local communities;
- 4) Potential opportunities to mitigate any negative impacts or increase positive impacts to local communities from the Burning Man event.

As local experts, your community's participation in these interviews would provide valuable insight for the BLM.

Third-party neutral facilitators from Environmental Management and Planning Solutions Inc. (EMPSi) have been hired to organize, convene, and facilitate these interviews. EMPSi will document input and summarize the information for incorporation into the EIS process.

Who:

One or more representatives or staff member from your organization. Appropriate representatives may include planning department staff, county board of commissioners, city council members, mayors, sheriff's department staff, or other knowledgeable representatives.

When:

Please contact Zoe Ghali at zoe.ghali@empsi.com, or call 303-447-7160 to arrange an interview time for your community representative(s). We anticipate scheduling interviews between December 4th – December 15th. A reply is appreciated by November 20th at the latest.

Please contact myself with any questions or concerns. My direct line is 775-623-1529 and my email is mehall@blm.gov.

Sincerely,

Mark Hall, PhD
Field Manager
Black Rock Field Office

Burning Man Special Recreation Permit Environmental Impact Statement

Socioeconomic Interview

Welcome and Introductions

Interview Talking Points

- What do people value the most about living in or visiting your community/communities within your county? Could you characterize the vision or desired social and economic conditions that have been identified by members of your community/communities in your county?
- How do members of your community/county perceive the Burning Man Event? How does the event fit/not fit in with current community values and vision?
- We are interested in hearing about how the Burning Man Event impacts your community/communities in your county
 - What (if any) community services, such as law enforcement, waste management, water and wastewater, etc.) that are provided by your community/communities in your county are affected by Burning Man Event?
 - For each service mentioned, is your community/communities in your county able to meet the increase in demand? Do you need to increase capacity during the event? How does it affect budget?
 - What (if any) other services are affected by Burning Man Event? Some services of particular interest include healthcare, occupancy rates at hotels/motels/campgrounds/RV parks, grocery stores, gas stations, etc.
 - How do members of your community/communities in your county perceive these effects? These can include “good” effects (expenditures in the community for local businesses, increase in tax revenues) / and “bad” effects (prices go up; non-event visitors have nowhere to stay; if you have a medical emergency, you have a long wait)
 - What other impacts does the event have on your community/communities in your county? And how do members perceive these impacts? (Consider impacts such as increased traffic, increase in temporary population, crime, friendly/short-term visitors).
 - Does BRC provide any direct monetary or indirect support to your community/communities in your county to help mitigate impacts?
- Are there any data sources/contacts you recommend that would help the BLM to more completely assess the following:
 - Current economic conditions of your community/county. For example, local data on employment, demographics, fiscal conditions.
 - Economic impacts of the Burning Man Event, including documents or data detailing the amount of money spent by participants in your community and what that money is spent on.
 - Social impacts of the Burning Man Event, such as a relevant local survey, article, and/or report.
- Are there specific changes to the Burning Man Event that you would recommend to benefit your community/county?

For Further Information:

Zoe Ghali, EMPSi- Phone: 303-447-7160, email: Zoe.Ghali@EMPSi.com

Mark Hall, BLM Field Manager- Phone: 775-623-1529, email: mehall@blm.gov

Burning Man Special Recreation Permit Environmental Impact Statement

Socioeconomic Interview

Location: Fernley City Manager's Office. 595 Silverlace Blvd. Fernley, NV

Attendees: Representatives from Lyon County code enforcement, Lyon County Sherriff's office, City of Fernley managers office, City of Fernley building and enforcement and City of Fernley planning department.

Date: December 8, 2017

Discussion:

What do people value the most about living in or visiting your community/communities within your county? Could you characterize the vision or desired social and economic conditions that have been identified by members of your community/communities in your county?

- Small town feel, rural community
- Bedroom community, people want to stay out of the hustle and bustle of larger cities. More protected and away from issues related to larger cities.
- Lyon County is different from Fernley, Fernley is about 35% of county. Conservative value belief system. Many residents do not like outsiders coming in and making changes. For the most part Lyon County residents don't like event participants coming through.
- People in Fernley coming from bigger areas are more open to change, but those from the area want the town to stay the same as it always has been.

How do members of your community/county perceive the Burning Man Event? How does the event fit/not fit in with current community values and vision?

- Attendees note that residents have mixed feelings.
- Most negative is the residual effects from the event - such as those related to code enforcement.
- One representative felt that Burning Man has changed over time. She stated that the event is a good thing for local economy, trash leaving the event has become a problem. She believes that there is now less giving back to communities and less partnership.

What (if any) public services, such as law enforcement, waste management, water and wastewater, etc. that are provided by your community/communities in your county are affected by Burning Man Event?

One participant stated that attendees are not of the not the same generation that started Burning Man. Now it's the younger crowd that they run into problems with. Give an inch take 100000 miles. Don't need to increase resources to address it but do see increase in petty larceny, DUIs (illegal substance use). From the people hanging out after the event. Usually staffed up on weekend anyway – nothing heinous has occurred as of yet.

Specific issues noted by meeting attendees include:

Trash control: bins were overflowing with trash and all around, became a code enforcement issue. Wal-Mart, Loves, and Pilot provide trash bins - overflowing, but might be local impacts as well.

Public works – effects on sanitary services. Dump sites at the RV parks. Sewer pumping. Pumps are overextended and go out. Not at upper limits (3.5 mill gallons/day). Peaks were seen at 1.6 mill gallons/day.

Traffic- Traffic can be a huge issue. 90 percent of attendees come through this way. Only 5 percent from Cedarville and 5 percent from Utah and other areas. The state is dealing with wrecks on 447 up to Gerlach. Here some fender benders in Wal-Mart.

Emergency medical support- Northline fire protection (Fernley) ambulance and fire can also be impacted by event. Sometimes have to transport folks that are dehydrated or OD. So, there is increase but cannot say how much.

Other services affected – Sherriff notes that there are impacts on North Lyon Fire, courts, city attorney office, justice court. Felony charges for mushrooms and other illegal substances. Sometimes, Lyon County provides support to Pershing County and other counties for services and they compensate them. Lyon County sends 1-2 staff to work the event. There is a lot of mutual aid in rural communities.

Sheriff's office representatives note that so far, the impacts are manageable with current staff levels, based on calls for service, but that there may be other impacts not as easily measured (i.e., service delivery delays). Attendees note that there are three main periods associated with the event, workers, influx of attendees, quiet for 1-2 weeks, then everyone leaving. Most issue associated with a couple of days on the beginning and end of the event that are an issue.

What (if any) other services are affected by Burning Man Event? Some services of particular interest include healthcare, occupancy rates at hotels/motels/campgrounds/RV parks, grocery stores, gas stations, etc.

- Hotels etc. are booked for several weeks on either side. It is difficult to give a true measurement of impacts directly from Burning Man (i.e., in the two-week period around the event). Summer is busy time due to other events like rib cookoff, street vibrations, Hot August nights races at Reno/Fernley raceway
- Homeless: Homeless camps popped up in the area just after the event. Some people are already homeless, and they hitch hike out there and some of them get stuck in Fernley
- Businesses – Affected by theft and taking showers in the bathrooms. City code enforcement issues for camping at Wal-Mart, so city goes with parking violation 90% of the time people respect the city code rules. Benefits to business include sales. Major truck stops also benefit. Participants camp out at Wal-Mart and Wal-Mart allows that because of the business they get. Some churches and other groups also take the bikes and re-use them.

How do members of your community/communities in your county perceive these effects? These can include “good” effects (expenditures in the community for local businesses, increase in tax revenues) / and “bad” effects (prices go up; non-event visitors have nowhere to stay; if you have a medical emergency, you have a long wait).

- Perspective is personal. Businesses are happy in profits but may not say it they like it
- All businesses get impacts and many small businesses thrive in this time. They stock unique retail items come in to stores that they would not normally have in anticipation of Burners.
- The marijuana dispensary would benefit once it opens.
- Sherriff: For the rest of county – no fiscal impact whatsoever. More of annoyance than anything. But traffic worst is the near Fernley the rest more spread out.
- Fernley is the hub for people going to the event, people have to stop here, as there are very limited services in Pershing County. As a result, the population in Fernley can double during event entry and Exodus time frames.

What other impacts does the event have on your community/communities in your county? And how do members perceive these impacts? (Consider impacts such as increased traffic, increase in temporary population, crime, friendly/short-term visitors).

- Biggest thing is shift in the way the event is going.
- Previously there was an arts group. Have an agreement and they were supposed to change it out. Art was removed and never replaced. Changed about two years ago.
- Sherriff notes that he is glad the event does not occur in Lyon County- so glad it does not occur in Lyon County (an alternative location on BOR lands had been proposed to commissioners)
- Due to impacts on other are uses, people plan around the event. One example is hunting and recreation. People interesting in recreating avoid the area during the event.

Does BRC provide any direct monetary or indirect support to your community/communities in your county to help mitigate impacts?

- Limited to reciprocal agreement with Lyon County for law enforcement services. If BRC offered money, Lyons County would take it and hire another deputy.
- Taxes collected should offset costs but would need to show accurate data from event. Washoe and Clark County are supporting operations.

Are there any data sources/contacts you recommend that would help the BLM to more completely assess the impacts of the event?

- Data sources: North Lyons fire chief, Highway patrol data.

Are there specific changes to the Burning Man Event that you would recommend to benefit your community/county?

- Charge \$1 per attendee for city fund
- Additional coordination/public outreach from BRC. For example, meet with chamber of commerce (even a conference call). Come and talk to city council to get input. Communication would be nice, even if just to have discussion about things

Burning Man Event Special Recreation Permit EIS

Socioeconomic Interview

Location: Gerlach Community Center, Gerlach, NV

Attendees: Representatives from Gerlach/Empire Community Advisory Board [CAB] and EIS contractor EMPSi

Date: December 4, 2017 (Interview held at Public Meeting for EIS)

Discussion:

What do people value the most about living in or visiting your community/communities within your county? Could you characterize the vision or desired social and economic conditions that have been identified by members of your community/communities in your county?

People in Gerlach and Empire take care of themselves and others in their community. There is a sense of comradery with your neighbors. People value independence and lack of government restrictions. These communities are unique due to their small size and lack of “modern amenities”. There is no fast food, no stop lights. The community has embraced the unique and diverse.

Gerlach would love to have more temporary visitors, but they want to remain at the “end of the road”, rather than be a weigh station on the way. People here would not want changes to occur that would impact these small-town characteristics. Limited growth would be OK. They feel that that have a taste of growth during Burning Man and then are ready to go back. Too much growth would change the character of the community. Participants noted that they would like better internet, to allow more people to live in the community and have internet-based business. They also see continued presence of hunting and ranching as important to the community.

How do members of your community/county perceive the Burning Man Event? How does the event fit/not fit in with current community values and vision?

The event simultaneously fits and does not fit with the local community values.

Burning Man represents a community with shared values where anyone can meet at the table. That is a concept that works well in the community.

The lifestyle of burners is fascinating. But attendees can bring city attitudes (drugs, nudity, etc.). People from the city also seem more entitled. They expect things immediately and don't understand the limitations of small communities. They forget that they left the city. Impacts on the community are temporary (i.e., 3 days before and 6 days after). The issues are not generally from long time event attendees, but rather those who are there to party and not as interested in the principal values of Burning Man.

The Burning Man Event moved to the Nevada desert in order to have the freedom to do things that they could not do in San Francisco. This basic freedom is what brings people to Nevada, including the residents in Gerlach and Empire. If the law enforcement presence associated with Burning Man continues to increase (at event and in community) this impacts the environment for both places.

What (if any) public services that are provided by your community/communities in your county are affected by Burning Man Event? Is your community able to meet the increase in demand? Do you need to increase capacity during the event? How does it affect budget?

- County roads are impacted by the event, both in terms of traffic during the event and level of repairs needed after the event due to the increased level of traffic. Traffic impacts the ability of residents to get to Fernley or Reno during that time period. Budget for road repair is under county purview.
- Schools are closed during the event as it was too difficult to get students to/from school due to traffic
- Water is a concern. Gerlach has supplemental water supply sales to Burning Man to keep costs of water delivery low for residents, but the feeling among participants is that there needs to be a cap on the level of sales to make sure that there is enough for community including for fire control, etc. The level of water used for the event is a large portion of total use for the year. For example, 1 million gallons used that week, out of a total of 18 million gallons used over a year.
- Internet services are overloaded in town during the event. This impacts ability of business to run credit cards, etc. Burning Man pays for internet for the town but there is a need for supplemental access.
- Residents are impacted by parking permit requirements in town.

What (if any) other impacts does the event have on your community? How do members of your community/communities in your county perceive these effects?

- The event brings some money to the community. Some examples of types of business that make money during the event include the gas station, storage space, bike rentals, restaurants, Willi's (the bar). Some money funnels back to the community, but this is limited by the fact the many burners do not stop in town. This is partially due to messaging to not have people stop due to traffic issues. It is a difficult situation to balance. In addition, many of the vendors who are here specifically for the event are not local.
- The event impacts permanent growth. It brings in new life to a community that might otherwise die. One or two people generally end up staying after Burning Man every year, resulting in slow growth in the community. This can help support economic development. For example, a new coffee shop opened this year.
- There are concerns about the presence of government/law enforcement during the event. Participants feel that this represents a time period of increased scrutiny. They feel that government/law enforcement take advantage of this target rich environment. They mention as an example surprise building code inspection that took place when code enforcement representatives were in town for the event. They also noted that police presence at Burning Man is much higher than in places like Reno, where there are more crimes. The feeling is that law enforcement does not address the issues that are important to the community. For example, they would enforce public nudity, but not other issues brought from the playa to town. Participants specifically feel that BLM involvement seems to be growing exponentially. This does not make community comfortable. The Community does not generally trust BLM, and this is an issue during the event.

- Participants estimate that the “we hate burning man” percentage of the town in down to about 38-40 percent. There will always be issues, but the majority of the town supports the event.
- Participants note that an impact of BLM management outside of the event that concerns them is loss of hunting and ranching opportunities due to the National Conservation Area designation. They note hunting and ranching provide important year-round contributions to the community.

Does BRC provide any direct monetary or indirect support to your community/communities in your county to help mitigate impacts?

- BRC Owns lots of property. But if they could bring more businesses that would be a benefit. (i.e., don’t just use buildings for storage).
- BRC donated to a number of community services/events including the fire dept., senior center, chili cookoff, school, Gerlach General Improvement District. Ice sales at the event help support the reservation and local services.
- BRC provides free internet for the community.
- BRC provides free firewood
- BRC provides eight full time jobs, potential for more?

Are there any data sources/contacts you recommend that would help the BLM to more completely assess impacts?

- Owner of store in Empire
- Owner of Bruno’s restaurant in Gerlach
- Planet X

Are there specific changes to the Burning Man Event that you would recommend to benefit your community?

- The few locals that go to Burning Man would be happy if they could go through the service entrance. They recognize that there are issues with this request.
- Traffic is an issue- but this is difficult to resolve
- Participants recommend that \$2 per ticket or some percentage go to impacted communities. If this method won’t work, consider fining some other ways to provide money to the community (i.e., improve community center, reduce water bill, etc.)
- Non-monetary support would also be appreciated. For example, providing the BLM station for community use. One example includes supporting a nurse or other medical services for the community on a regular (i.e., weekly) basis. Participants request that BLM or BRC help providing a location for services (i.e., allow use of BLM station for nurse visits or other community use). Also requests BLM provide RV sewage dump stations at their facilities that operates year-round.
- Participants stress that they are interested in year-round services not just for a few weeks. They feel that the BLM does not currently support the community on a year-round basis.

Burning Man Event Special Recreation Permit EIS

Socioeconomic Interview

Location: Fairfield Inn and Suites. Sparks, Nevada.

Attendees: General Manager Fairfield Inn, and EIS contractor EMPSi

Date: December 5, 2017

Discussion:

What are perceptions of the Burning Man Event in your community:

Feelings in Sparks are mixed. Business see the event as a positive due to increased sales, etc. People who don't have a business interest might not feel that it is a great thing. Seeing the streets dirty, dust on the cars can be seen as a negative influence.

What impacts do you see from the Burning Man Event at your Business?

People from all over the world come to the Burning Man Event. This drives business in the area around the time of the event. People use the hotel as a home base. They have items delivered to the hotel and stay before and/or after the event.

The economic impacts on the hotel include a rate increase. Rates are approximately 20 percent higher as compared to other rates during the summer time period. As compared to a winter weekend can be over 100 percent higher rates. Although other events are happening at the same time (i.e., Rib Fest), Brad estimated that the increase at Fairfield is approximately 70% attributable to the Burning Man Event.

The Fairfield Inn sells out during the time of the event, as do all hotels in Reno, Sparks, Fallon etc. Sometimes people cannot find a hotel closer than Sacramento. It is estimated that there is about a ten day to two-week time period of increased occupancy.

Some increase in housekeeping/cleaning needs occur. The Fairfield Inn has not required extra hiring, but this is because it is a small hotel.

Waste management is an issue. People leaving the event deposit trash at the hotel dumpsters. This includes other event attendees, not just guests. The Fairfield Inn has responded by ordering extra dumpster collections. They tried locking the dumpsters, but this resulted in people dropping it outside

The Fairfield Inn has not had issues within increased crime other public safety issues with the event, although Brad is aware that some other hotels hire extra security. The Fairfield's strategy has been to be more selective and attempt to have bookings that area for longer periods surrounding the event time period, rather than short stays. Some of the increase in guests during the time of the event might be people displaced from other locations.

The hotel also gets some increased business from the BLM and other government officials around the time of the event.

What are other impacts that you note in the community?

Other hotels also see an increase in occupancy and rates during the time period around the event. Some hotels have started having parties specifically for event attendees. The Grand Sierra Resort, for example, has big parties and other events.

Other retail impacts are widespread. Things like second hand clothing shops, bike shops see an increase in sales. Walmart must see an astronomical increase in sales. For example, at Walmart and other stores you see large trucks making purchases. The impacts are spread beyond more than just two- or three-day impact.

Traffic is not much of a concern in Sparks. Here is it relatively spread out. Growth in the area has generally increased traffic, so it is hard to say that there is a huge impact associated with the Burning Man Event.

Are there any data sources/contacts you recommend that would help the BLM to more completely assess impacts of the event?

Not aware of any Burning Man specific reports or other info for the hotel industry

The RSCVA (Reno Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority)- collects information on occupancy tax. They are likely to have information on hotel capacity, rates, and total taxes collected.

Are there specific changes to the Burning Man Event that you would recommend?

Better solutions for trash disposal and recycling

As the area is growing, traffic may be more of an issue in coming years. More graduated entry and exit times could help with this issue.

Burning Man Special Recreation Permit Environmental Impact Statement

Socioeconomic Interviews

Location: Washoe County Complex, 1001 E. 9th Street, Reno, NV

Attendees: Representatives from Washoe County planning department, operations division, grants administrator and EIS contractor EMPSi

Date: December 5, 2017

Discussion:

What do people value the most about living in or visiting your community/communities within your county? Could you characterize the vision or desired social and economic conditions that have been identified by members of your community/communities in your county?

Participants provided the Washoe County Master Plan for the High Desert Area. This outlines some core characteristics for the area. The plan states that residents in the high desert area are “proud of their Western Heritage and describe the community in terms of its seclusion, natural beauty, clean air and independence” (Washoe County Master Plan, High Dessert Area Plan p 4)

How do members of your community/county perceive the Burning Man Event? How does the event fit/not fit in with current community values and vision?

- Burning Man represents economic development, cultural interaction. While there was a culture shock when it first started, people have gotten used to the event in Washoe County.
- Within Gerlach there is a love/hate relationship because the event has a significant impact on their community diversity. This event has changed the culture there. The closing of the Gypsum mine in Empire in 2011 impacted the communities of Gerlach and Empire culture and economics. Some saw Burning Man as a replacement.
- Employees with deep roots in the community have disparate views about liking/not liking the culture of Burning Man and how it has changed the county culture.
- The event has been embraced by the city in terms of art and businesses which has bolstered the local art community, in Reno in particular.
- The planning regulations for the County are not built to accommodate this style of event. The County has had to be flexible to figure out how to deal with these unique types of uses.
- Rubicon design in Washoe is working with BRC. There have been issues with zoning, compliance and code enforcement issues. These include issues with radio towers, staging areas, etc.
- Fly Creek Ranch area: Washoe County is also concerned with future use of the Fly Creek Ranch area recently acquired by BRC.
- There is also some concern with revolving door of Burning Man staff for interactions with Washoe County permitting, etc.

What (if any) public services, such as law enforcement, waste management, water and wastewater, etc.) that are provided by your community/communities in your county are affected by Burning Man Event? Are communities in your county able to meet the increase in demand? Do you need to increase capacity during the event? How does it affect budget?

- Traffic is a big deal for Washoe. The amount of traffic at Burning Man is equal to the amount of traffic for the other 11 months out of the year. Traffic and parking are also an issue in times of intermittent event closure (i.e., due to weather conditions) When they close the event, people end up parking everywhere including Tribal areas.
- Road maintenance and related costs are an issue. Washoe has done an After Action Report (AAR) for roads since 2015. AARs quantify costs with getting roads in condition for the event and conducting road repair after the event. Road maintenance is funded through County fuel tax- the general fund does provide some funds but the road itself is under-engineered for the amount and type of traffic from the event. BRC hasn't shown the county figures for fuel taxes which would help offset some of the road maintenance costs. The bulk of the traffic does come through Reno. There is a small county crew stationed there. Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District crew helps with a week or two of work. There were emergency road repairs last year during the Exodus. The event diverts efforts of Washoe road crews to the event.
- First Responders are impacted by the event, including law enforcement and fire/medical. Good contacts for Fire/EMS information are the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA) as well as the Emergency Manager at Washoe County. Gerlach Volunteer Fire Department and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District also responds to medical and fire issues and may have input.
- Social Services: child neglect/Child Protective Services are involved in this event- there is some mutual aid that may involve Washoe County social services. Consider follow up Washoe County social services.
- Waste management outside of the event site is an issue. Though the playa is regulated in terms of waste management, the areas in the surrounding county are not. Attendees fill up the available garbage space when leaving the event and trash gathers on the side of the road Primary concerns are roadside trash, abandoned RVs. Information is included in the AAR.
- Water and wastewater are fairly well regulated for the event. There is interest in a wastewater/shower facility in Gerlach.
- Air quality is an issue at the event due to dust from traffic.
- Permitting: Lower Washoe County has to deal with code enforcement for rental lots. These temporary rental lots are also utilized for living spaces.
- Vendor Permits: vendors near the event require business licenses and health permits (where applicable) from Washoe County to sell items. Washoe County Code enforcement goes to the event to regulate. These permits themselves are not a huge workload for the county but sending county employees to Gerlach to ensure compliance negates the revenue obtained from permit costs.

What (if any) other services are affected by Burning Man Event? What is the overall perception of impacts?

- Ad-hoc business opportunities exist: tow trucks, mechanics, retail. The revenue from these services benefits Washoe County.
- Because other events (i.e., Rib Fest) happens at the same time, competing event results in impacts on traffic
- Traffic impacts other users in the area, hunters in particular are impacted by the event and may avoid the area.

Does BRC provide any direct monetary or indirect support to your community/communities in your county to help mitigate impacts?

- Washoe County does not receive money from the event with the exception of law enforcement (Sheriff's office). This is the only formal agreement with the county and BRC.
- BLM, Washoe, and Pershing all have a mutual aid MOU for law enforcement assistance. Courts are impacted due to the increase in citations related to the event.

Are there any data sources/contacts you recommend that would help the BLM assess impacts?

- Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA) information
- NDOT is also impacted and would be a good data source
- Gerlach Volunteer fire department. They have a report assessing the 2013 event.
- AAR for roads for the event will be helpful.
- EDANN- Economic development authority of Northern Nevada did a small business development study which could be helpful.

Are there specific changes to the Burning Man Event that you would recommend to benefit your community/county?

- Waste management is an issue for the surrounding area and should be addressed.
- Contingency plan for "mass exodus" so people do not impact area surrounding event
- BRC has begun using a staggered entrance/exit which has helped a bit. However, the traffic is still a big problem and should be addressed.
- Air Quality- consider adding more water trucks and dust palliative on the playa to mitigate air quality impacts.
- Washoe County requests that BRC provide and better communication with the county, including more professional interaction in terms of getting permits and following permit requirements.
- Washoe County recommends the BRC provide additional investment in Gerlach including building housing, shower facilities, etc.

Burning Man Special Recreation Permit Environmental Impact Statement

Socioeconomic Interviews

Location: Office of the City Manager, 1 E. First St. , Reno, NV, 89501

Attendees: Representative from the Reno Police department, City of Reno Public Art Program, City of Reno Arts, Culture, and Events, City of Reno City Mangers office and reno-Tahoe International Airport, and EIS contractor EMPSi

Date: December 5, 2017

Discussion:

What do people value the most about living in or visiting your community/communities within your county? Could you characterize the vision or desired social and economic conditions that have been identified by members of your community/communities in your county?

- Arts and culture in Reno are only second to outdoor recreation – 20 minutes to anywhere and 30 minutes to nowhere.
- City Master Plan notes the importance of arts and culture.
- Reno envisions being a center for arts and culture- this ties in well with Burning Man.
- The branding of Reno has changed – Burning Man had a role in this. Mayor is chair commission for national focus on arts and culture – Reno seen as makers, arts and culture emphasis.
- Who Reno is and what we want to become has been largely impacted by Burning Man.

How do members of your community/county perceive the Burning Man Event? How does the event fit/not fit in with current community values and vision?

- There is an overwhelmingly positive view of Burning Man by people in Reno. People view it as a unique asset of Reno.
- A lot of people in the community go to the event therefore they see it as part of the community, and a “season”.
- The event has led to art work bring brought into the city (the city has bought 6-7 pieces). There is a temporary playa art park with 10 pieces per year.
- From airport perspective – early adopters, it is strange and unique but how do we not embrace this? Every year they do a Burning Man exhibit in the airport. Attendees come from 34 different countries. The airport also partners with the Kiwanis club to collect used bikes at the airport from the event and repurpose them. They also have receptacles - for anything to keep security lines moving. Burners used to come directly to airport and dust would backup baggage belt, but the airport is willing to deal with this for the business. Now the many attendees stay at the hotels like the GSR and Eldorado. And the hotels embrace this.
- The city also supports pre- and post-Burning Man Events and people like these as well, July 31 compression art and fire, and decompression party on October 4th.

What (if any) public services, such as law enforcement, waste management, water and wastewater, etc.) that are provided by your community/communities in your county are affected by Burning Man Event? For each service mentioned, is your community/communities in your county able to meet the increase in demand? Do you need to increase capacity during the event? How does it affect budget?

- Airport- Huge impact for airport. Estimated at \$11-15 million impact on the airport. If the event no longer occurred this would have a budget impact on the airport. 20k passengers – 4 days coming and 4 days going. Have thought of putting in showers at the airport
- Reno PD- Calls per service, crime does go up, can this be attributed to Burning Man attendees? Could just be increasing opportunity. Petty larceny increases. Police are used to having major events –this is just a little busier MOUS with agencies throughout the region but not sure about Pershing. Indirect way would be to backfill Washoe County if they were called out to support Pershing.
- Medical calls increase due to increased number of folks in the city. Include people coming in dehydrated, etc.
- Asst city manager – two other services that increase, trash in private dumpsters, goes up as event gets larger. Not major problem but it happens. Also, RVs end up in Reno abandoned. City has to remove them. Spike is attributable
- Every car detailer in town has Burning Man service/rates Gerlach fundraiser is the car wash
- Sales tax – significant impact. These taxes are a 3rd of resources to provide services
- Key services and places where people are spending money – Walmart, Costco, Whole Foods. Attendees hit stores and hit them hard, there are also impacts on hotels. They are now promoting after parties.
- The assistant city manager notes that the city has heard that there can sometimes be homeless people left stranded after the event, this can be a burden on social services but not a big number
- Traffic as an issue? Attendees do not feel that traffic is a large problem for the city. The real problem is I-80. Even though it is Washoe County so not an impact for the city. The city is used to events, so traffic is nothing out of the ordinary. With air and mass transport the traffic has gotten better. Burner Express bus from the airport is run very efficiently and helps with traffic control. Businesses would like to have more stops for the Burner Express bus. Some hotels also offer bus service.
- Assistant City manager- County would likely not be not supportive of road mitigation to widen roads near event due to lack of funding. But would support agreement with BRC for County to maintain roads.
- Burning man does not provide direct funding to the city of Reno but does provide grants for art - \$5000. Reno sponsors the July art event with no funding from Burning Man, October event is private and does not get funding from Burning Man
- Reno benefits indirectly due to employment creation and spending. Room tax also provides money for arts and culture.
- Airport representative feels that coordination with Burning Man and airport is good.
- Additional trash disposal is the only potential issue discussed. BRC has guidelines for disposal and reducing waste. The airport representative notes that the airport as giant trash receptacles. They have been contacted by charities to use what is in the bins, but the airport cannot accept

this liability. If BRC would have a program for recycling items deposited at airport, and have a donation program would be helpful and build more positive perspective.

Are there any data sources/contacts you recommend that would help the BLM to more completely assess impacts?

- Recommend RSCVA August and September data. Hotels are proprietary info so cannot get info directly.
- Wall street journal article – melting pot article. 65% of revenue from Burning Man. Average burner spends \$300-400 each. Some will spend up to \$3k. Fuel and food – 50 million in Nevada for fuel, food, and lodging. Twin City surplus also does a lot of business
- City will provide articles and survey from master plan that talks about art and culture

Are there specific changes to the Burning Man Event that you would recommend to benefit your community/county?

- Assistant city manager- Nothing from city of Reno perspective.
- Potentially better curating of art and/or more money spent in the local community on art?
- Airport representative suggests that supporting art in Reno schools would be beneficial- Reno schools struggle, and art is always on the table to be cut.

Burning Man Event Special Recreation Permit EIS

Socioeconomic Interview

Location: Cal-Nevada Towing, Sparks, Nevada

Attendees: Representatives from Cal-Nevada Towing and Milne Towing, and EIS contractor, EMPSi

Date: December 6, 2017

Discussion:

What impacts do you see from the Burning Man event at your Business?

Cal-Nevada and Milne Towing are under a contract with police agencies, including Nevada Highway Patrol and local counties/municipalities. Under this contract they are contacted when there is a vehicle needing towing services. This contract does not involve money, just an agreement to pick-up. In general, this contract results in money to towing companies when individuals who need two services pay the companies for services.

In the Burning Man Event however, many more than average tows are for vehicles that are abandoned on the road. Owners pull the plates and remove all identifying information prior to abandoning these vehicles so that no collection action can be taken. For these calls the tow companies become responsible for the disposal of the vehicles. This represents a cost in terms of lost time, as well as cost of disposal. Many of these vehicles also have trash that needs to be disposed of. For many of the vehicles at Burning Man, (i.e., old RVs), there is little resale value, even for scrap, as the majority of the vehicle is not metal. Cal-Nevada towing is one of three companies under the contract that have heavy duty towing capacity, which is required to deal with the larger vehicles (i.e., RVs) and non-rolling vehicles. As a result, they take on a large percentage of the calls for vehicles from Burning Man.

Participants note that the Burning Man Event also represents increased tows and related revenue, not all cars are abandoned. They estimate that approximately 5-10 percent of calls are for “junk” vehicles. They estimate that the cost to deal with these vehicles is approximal \$2,000-5,000 per vehicle, including time. They estimate that costs to the two companies are \$20,000-\$25,000.

What are other impacts that you note in the community?

Roads needing repair along route from Fernley to Gerlach is an issue.

Traffic associated with the event also impacts tow companies, as it results in increased time for towing. Participants feel that spreading out entry/exit would not help issues, as it would just result in people waiting on the side of the road.

Are there any data sources/contacts you recommend that would help the BLM to more completely assess impacts of the event?

No input provided.

Are there specific changes to the Burning Man Event that you would recommend?

The tow companies are interested in a system that would allow for some compensation from BRC for the cost of towing and disposing of these non-road-worthy vehicles. Potential suggestions are a contract to deal with these “junk” vehicles, or a fund to help off-set the costs. Participants suggest that a percent of ticket price could be used to establish this fund.

Cal-Nevada towing is currently under a contract to remove vehicles from the playa, but they should consider adding another part of the contract to get rid of anything abandoned that obviously came from the playa.

Participant suggest that there could be some inspection process to guarantee that vehicles at Burning Man (not art cars, but vehicles used for transportation to the event) are road worthy.

Burning Man Special Recreation Permit Environmental Impact Statement

Socioeconomic Interviews

Location: Churchill County Administrative offices

Attendees: Churchill County Manager, Churchill Economic Development Authority, EIS contractor EMPSi

Date: December 6, 2017

Discussion:

What do people value the most about living in or visiting your community/communities within your county? Could you characterize the vision or desired social and economic conditions that have been identified by members of your community/communities in your county?

Key belief values include:

- Agricultural community with small town feel. Fallon is a historic walkable town. Churchill County has an arts center, library, and museum.
- Recreation and hunting
- Churchill is considered 1 hour from anywhere. 95 percent of County residents live within 15 miles of Fallon

How do members of your community/county perceive the Burning Man Event? How does the event fit/not fit in with current community values and vision?

- A lot of people from Churchill County go to the event, however, the community at large does not care about the event much, it does not affect them much
- County is trying to design events around Burning Man to capitalize on the interest in the event.

What (if any) public services, such as law enforcement, waste management, water and wastewater, etc.) that are provided by your community/communities in your county are affected by Burning Man Event? What (if any) other services are affected by Burning Man Event? Some services of particular interest include healthcare, occupancy rates at hotels/motels/campgrounds/RV parks, grocery stores, gas stations, etc.

- Churchill County does not have issues related with law enforcement – and they do not send staff to Pershing to work the event
- Only local business issue if Wal-Mart traffic and water sales. There are also a huge number of OHV recreationists coming through to spend Labor Day weekend at Sand Mountain Recreation area. There is no way to break out expenditures and taxes associated with Burning Man because of the Sand Mtn travelers.
- Some burners may stay in Fallon overnight on their way back. Due to other regional events, however, there is not a way to quantify hotel room stays or other traveler related expenses directly related to Burning Man.

- Most attendees at Burning Man travel through Reno and do not pass through Fallon. Some people coming through Vegas may stop, but traffic from the event is not an issue in Churchill County.

What other impacts does the event have on your community/communities in your county? And how do members perceive these impacts? (Consider impacts such as increased traffic, increase in temporary population, crime, friendly/short-term visitors).

- Traffic is challenge for those attending the event, it can take 9 hours to get from event back to Fernley. Traffic within the Churchill and Fallon is not really an issue.

Are there specific changes to the Burning Man Event that you would recommend to benefit your community/county?

- Churchill County would like to coordinate with BRC to tie event to arts community with the Churchill Arts Council
- They do not recommend changes to Burning Man except maybe short-term ticket option.
- Churchill County hunters and recreators do not seem effected.

Burning Man Event Special Recreation Permit EIS

Socioeconomic Interview

Location: Peppermill Resort, Reno, Nevada.

Attendees: Director of Marketing Operations, Peppermill Resort, EIS contractor EMPSi

Date: December 7, 2017

Discussion:

What are perceptions of the Burning Man Event in your community?

Burning Man helps to change the image of Reno from an old gaming town to a hipper image. It also brings diversity to the community. Business like Tesla have helped this image as well. In general, most people have a positive perception of Burning Man.

What impacts do you see from the Burning Man event at your Business?

Burning Man brings international visitors.

The event results in increased room rates and increased hotel taxes collected. The Peppermill is generally fairly full in the summer, so impacts on rooms sold are less. However, there is a bump in capacity after the Labor Day holiday, when sales would otherwise be decreased. Peppermill estimates that the total bump in revenue is approximately \$100,000 (based on increase in room sales of 300-400 room nights on Monday and Tuesday after the event at \$150 and bump in room rate of around \$10 for other rooms). Of this amount, RSVCA gets 13% tax and an additional percentage of the resort fee.

Peppermill does not have afterburn parties, it focuses on people who want to relax. Hotel is generally at capacity, so no need for promotions.

Some additional demand for dumpsters, but Peppermill anticipates this and orders more in advance. Peppermill has dedicated trailer parking that guests utilize.

What are other impacts that you note in the community?

No increase in crime noted

Are there any data sources/contacts you recommend that would help the BLM to more completely assess impacts of the event?

The RSCVA (Reno Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority)

Are there specific changes to the Burning Man Event that you would recommend?

No changes recommended

Burning Man Special Recreation Permit Environmental Impact Statement

Socioeconomic Interviews

Location: Lovelock County Courthouse, Lovelock, Nevada

Attendees: Representatives from Pershing County Commissioners Office, Pershing County District Attorneys Office, Pershing County Economic Development Authority, EIS contractor EMPSi

Date: December 8, 2017

Discussion:

What do people value the most about living in or visiting your community/communities within your county? Could you characterize the vision or desired social and economic conditions that have been identified by members of your community/communities in your county?

Pershing County has agrarian values. They are a hardworking community with independence and a libertarian streak. They value limited government. People like Pershing County because of freedom on constraints and because a handshake still means something.

How do members of your community/county perceive the Burning Man Event? How does the event fit/not fit in with current community values and vision?

The disconnect between Pershing County and Burning Man is so strong that it impedes the ability to prosecute offenders from the event. For example, there are 3-4 sexual assault cases annually. Jurors ruled non-guilty on all cases as they felt that if you go to Burning Man you know what you are getting into. It should be noted that these cases were for date-rape types of scenarios, where the victim knew the assailant. Rulings could have been different if there had been more clear-cut cases.

The large majority of people in the community are against the event. Some people do feel that attendees are adults and they can participate in whichever activities that they want.

What (if any) public services, such as law enforcement, waste management, water and wastewater, etc.) that are provided by your community/communities in your county are affected by Burning Man Event? Are communities in your county able to meet the increase in demand? Do you need to increase capacity during the event? How does it affect budget?

There is a large impact of burning man on the criminal justice system in Pershing County. The event results in approximately 160-180 cases annually. Of these, approximately 30-40 cases are felonies and 100-110 misdemeanor cases.

Costs for the County are paid out of the contract with BRC. Under this agreement, BRC agreed to pay \$240,000 annually to Pershing County, including approximately \$70,000 to the district attorney, \$5,000 to assessor's office, and remainder to Sherriff's office. Pershing County feels that the costs of the contract do not cover the full costs for the County. Costs for the Sherriff's department are estimated to be \$35,000 over budget.

Other costs/impacts on the County include costs for indignant services, costs of incarceration (some up to 1 year, if they can't make bail cost is on the County), extradition costs for inmates coming from other locations in the County, costs for interpreters in the courtroom (although interpretive costs are generally covered by the defense)

Pershing County's experience with the Black Rock Rangers is that they obstruct investigations rather than aid law enforcement. Battery and other issues are not reported to law enforcement as a result. This may impact incident numbers. Some Rangers have been cited with drug related crimes, they should be counted as participants and staff. In addition, investigation and witness compliance are issues. Many victims decide not to continue charges after the event. At the public meeting, BRC noted that they is no property crime reported at the event. However, this is difficult to track due to the temporary nature of the event.

Crime statistics from Burning Man are reported in the general County crime statistics. This can have a general negative impact on the County statistics and perception.

Burning Man also represents increased County liability with little in return.

Impacts on medical services and fire protection are minor for Pershing County (higher in Washoe County)

Child in need to protection calls have come up (3-4 cases total) Missing children cases take away from other cases on the playa needing attention.

Impacts occur due to services being occupied during the event. One example of impacts is the shooting that happened in town when Burning Man was ongoing last year. Lack of available staff was an issue.

What (if any) other services are affected by Burning Man Event?

Lovelock is not a gateway city to Burning Man, as a result there few impacts directly on the community (minimal increased revenue due to lack of pass through traffic). Lovelock therefore carries a large burden for a small community.

What is the overall perception of impacts?

People are frustrated that the federal government condones the event by issuing the permit. They feel that if the government issues the permit then the event should be more consistent with the values of the area. Primary issues of concern are immoral behavior, drug use. Community members believe that the event should be adult only (i.e., 18 or 21 and over)

Participants of the interview feel that that money generated by Burning Man should be spread. This is really a federal government issue. The federal government is issuing the permit and the cost is covered the County. Both have jurisdiction.

Does BRC provide any direct monetary or indirect support to your community/communities in your county to help mitigate impacts?

BRC provides contracted money to Pershing County as described above

Prior to the contract, BRC made other donations to Pershing County, but these have since decreased. Participates state that BRC feels that the County is being paid for resources by the contract. BRC does provide donations to other non-profits.

Are there any data sources/contacts you recommend that would help the BLM assess impacts?

Lovelock Senior Center. Organizes senior tour for seniors with discounted tickets. Seniors like this benefit

Are there specific changes to the Burning Man Event that you would recommend to benefit your community/county?

- Make event 18-21 only
- Have better security at the gate, including better searches to identify drugs and weapons
- Prohibited items list should include drugs.
- The BLM should require BRC to kick-out attendees who have drugs and turn the drugs over to the police.
- Provide adequate perimeter fence to prevent issues (i.e., someone driving into the crowd). This would help the Sherriff feel that he could maintain safety with numbers within the amount budgeted by the contact

The BLM should be able to enforce these in order to issue a permit.

Law enforcement representatives from the BLM have been good partners with the County. There has recently been more effort to transporting people who commit crimes off the event (trending in the right direction). Could explore additional cooperative agreements with other counties for help.

BLM/BRC should explore revenue sharing

Burning Man Special Recreation Permit Environmental Impact Statement

Socioeconomic Interview

Location: phone interview

Attendees: NDOT planning department representative, EIS contractor EMPSi

Date: January 5, 2018

Discussion:

How is NDOT impacted by the Burning Man Event? What data sources are available to provide information on current social and economic impacts from the event?

Representative provided information on state wide level studies prepared by NDOT. He recommended review of documents at: <http://onenvplan.com/documents/>, Specifically, Socioeconomic and Market Overview document.

NDOT is currently conducting a One Nevada transportation Plan model update. This model is under development and is expected to be completed in mid-year 2019.

EMPSi representative asked if there is any specific data, either in published document or unpublished data format, that is collected specifically for the Burning Man Event. She let Tim know that a traffic study was conducted specifically for EIS at the previous event, but we would be interested in any other data that the NDOT has available.

The following contacts were recommended for additional input:

- Chief of environmental affairs at NDOT
- NDOT District 2 office, which is primarily responsible for the Burning Man permit as well as for permitting the temporary airport at the event.

Burning Man Special Recreation Permit Environmental Impact Statement

Socioeconomic Interview

Location: phone interview

Attendees: Gerlach Fire Department Chief, EIS contractor EMPSi

Date: January 17, 2018

Discussion:

How is the Gerlach fire department impacted by the Burning Man Event? Does the event result in additional demand for services and/or costs?

The Burning man results in increased need for services by the Gerlach fire department. Approximately ¼ of demand over the entire year occurs surrounding the event timeframe. Staff during most of the year consists of two paid staff. Around the time of the Burning Man Event, increases to four paid staff (with overtime).

Increased need for services occurs from about July to October. The peak need for services is during the event entry and exit. Calls are generally about one every three days, increase to one per day in July, to a max of eight per day during the event.

Two years ago, the volunteers that staffed the fire department resigned, so now there is a combination of paid permanent staff and 6 intermittent employees. During the event there is also overtime for the paid staff, also hire on volunteers and an additional 2-3 seasonal staff.

The fire chief is not aware of the specific costs associated with the increase in staff.

For the last two years REMSA staff unit also provided medical assistant services.

Appendix B

Methods for Quantified Economic Analysis

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Appendix B. Methods for Quantified Economic Analysis

Appendix B provides an overview of the methodology used to calculate tax contributions participant spending and BRC operational expenditure. In addition, Appendix B provides an overview of the general methodology used for economic modeling, and details for participant and BRC operational spending input.

PARTICIPANT SPENDING TAX CONTRIBUTIONS

Tax contributions associated with participant spending were calculated by examining the estimated spending by category and the associated related taxes collected. In estimating total county tax contribution, the model made three assumptions in determining taxes paid per category, per participant.

- Total expenditures in the Assessment Area were assumed to be \$576.66 per attendee
- The model assumes Food, Fun, and Survival are all retail purchases subject to a sales tax. An average Sales Tax taken from the five counties in the Assessment Area, of 7.38 percent.
- The model assumes each participant only lodged once in the Assessment Area with a Lodging Tax of 13% and a \$2 surcharge per room.
- The model takes the average Nevada gas price for August 2017 and September 2017 to calculate the average gallons purchased per participant. The average gallons purchased is used to determine the county Fuel Tax (\$ 0.1535/Gallon) contribution for the Assessment Area.

OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE TAX CONTRIBUTIONS

Tax contributions associated with operational retail revenue were estimated by adding non-labor vendor expenditures occurring in Nevada. The following assumptions were used for analysis:

- Vendor expenditures in assessment area assumed to have 100 percent of spending occur in assessment area.
- For expenditures in Nevada where the specific location in Nevada was not provided, the analysis assumed 50 percent of spending occurred within the Five-County Assessment Area.
- Vendor expenditures are subject to an average sale tax of 8.265 percent taken from the Five-County Assessment Area.
- Operational tax contributions associated with fuel expenditures were calculated by applying a \$0.1535 tax per gallon purchased. The per gallon tax includes a mandatory state tax of \$0.0635 per gallon and an optional county tax of \$0.09 per gallon, of which all counties in the assessment opt in.
- Live Entertainment Tax and Property Tax values were as reported by BRC and not calculated from expenditures.
- Assumes all tax revenue generated from operational expenditures changes proportionally to event size.

ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

General Methodology

To calculate the economic contribution of the event, an input-output model, IMPLAN, was used to calculate the jobs, incomes, and output statewide that are supported as money from BRC operational expenditures and event participants are spent in Nevada's economy. The model accounts for the "multiplier effect" that occurs as dollars circulate throughout the economy.

ECONorthwest modeled the effects of Burning Man's (BRC operational expenditures plus Burning Man participants) economic activity in two regions: the Assessment Area, which included the counties of Churchill, Humboldt, Pershing, Lyon, and Washoe and all other counties in Nevada.

The direct spending in these counties was used to measure the secondary (indirect and induced effects). Because spending in one area may have broader economic effects across the state, IMPLAN's multi-region input-output capability was used to link county models between the two regions, so that the direct spending in one region that results in indirect spending in the other region could also be captured.

Limitations of the Model

Input-output models are static models that measure inputs and outputs in an economy at a point in time. With this information and the balanced accounting structure of an input-output model, an analyst can: 1) describe an economy at one time-period, 2) introduce a change to the economy, and then 3) evaluate the economy after it has accommodated that change.

This type of "partial equilibrium" analysis permits comparison of the economy in two separate states but does not describe how the economy moves from one equilibrium to the next. In partial equilibrium analysis, the researcher assumes that all other relationships in the economy remain the same (other than the initial economic stimulus).

Contrary to dynamic models, static models assume that there are no changes in wage rates, input prices, and property values. In addition, underlying economic relationships in input-output models are assumed constant; there are no changes in the productivity of labor and capital, and no changes in population migration or business location patterns.

Data Inputs to the Model

Participant Spending Data

BRC provided the results of survey questions asked as part of the BRC Census (BRC 2017b) in which participants reported the amount of money they spent to go to and return from Black Rock City for the Burning Man Event. The survey showed that in 2017, participants spent a median of \$1,500 traveling to and from the event. Average spending in Nevada was \$666.60.

As discussed under the Affected Environment, Participant Spending Discussion, approximately \$576.66 per attendee would occur in the Assessment Area and the remaining \$89.94 would be spent elsewhere in Nevada based on participant stop data.

Participants to the event include ticketed attendees, volunteers, and BRC employees. For this analysis, we assume that event-related spending for employees and volunteers is similar to spending by other

participants. It is recognized that actual level of spending would be influenced by the number of days on playa and other factors, and that these projections may underestimate spending levels.

BRC Organizational Spending Data

Operational spending analyzed included almost all non-labor expenditure data provided by BRC for 2017 event expenditures, including goods and services spending on the event, social contributions, and property-related costs. BRC reported a \$1 million savings to organizations from solar energy installations by Black Rock Solar. That amount is not included in this total as it is not a direct expenditure. The amount also excludes monetary transfers to government agencies in the form of taxes, permit fees, and payment for services. Where BRC business expenditures are clearly defined as purchases in the Assessment Area, we will include these as direct expenditures.

Other identified business expenditures only have information about which state the spending occurred in. For these cases, we will assume that 50 percent of that direct spending occurs in the Assessment Area, unless that industry does not exist in that area. All other out-of-region spending was excluded from the study and discussed on a qualitative basis in the report.

Assumptions

ECONorthwest applied the per-participant spending totals in the Assessment Area and statewide as described in the methodology section to the total participants permitted under each alternative. ECONorthwest assumed that BRC spending would scale with the population increase or decrease. While some of BRC's expenditures likely are fixed with population or change at a rate different than the change in population, ECONorthwest consulted with EMPSi, BLM, and BRC, and after reviewing the data, determined that this assumption is sufficiently accurate for the purposes of this analysis.

Event and property expenditures had the following assumptions applied:

Alternative A, Proposed Action

Increase by 25 percent over baseline levels at maximum attendance

Alternative B, Reduced Population

ECONorthwest assumed that BRC spending would scale with the population decrease, so all event and property expenditures would decrease by 37.5 percent.

Alternative C, Alternative Location

The location on the playa may change BRC's event costs somewhat; however, insufficient information is available at this time to determine how or by what magnitude. Thus, for the purpose of this analysis, ECONorthwest assumes the same level of spending as that estimated for Alternative A (Proposed Action). There is no reason to assume that participant spending would vary, and since the alternate location on playa incorporates the same population ramp-up and final population as Alternative A (Proposed Action), participant spending would be the same.

Alternative D, No Population Change

Represents baseline conditions. ECONorthwest also assumed that BRC spending would reflect that reported for 2017. To assess this alternative, ECONorthwest applied the per-participant spending totals

in the Assessment Area and statewide as described in the methodology section to each of the 80,000 participants permitted under this alternative.

Alternative E, No Permit/Action

BLM and BRC assume that the number of people returning to the area each year would decline from somewhere below current levels to being indistinguishable from background rates of travel in the area. Data and information are insufficient to be able to reliably estimate the magnitude or timing of the decline. Information is also insufficient to make assumptions related to how BRC may continue to exist as an organization and spend money in Nevada for some period after the final Burning Man Event.

Results

Results are summarized in the Impacts Analysis section, tables below provide detailed results broken down for operational and participant spending.

Table B-1
Total Annual Economic Contribution of BRC Operational Expenditures in Nevada for Alternative A (Proposed Action)

Location	Type of Impact	Direct Effect	Indirect Effect	Induced Effect	Total Effect
Assessment Area	Output	\$5,310,800	\$1,706,100	\$2,145,800	\$9,162,700
	Labor Income	\$3,660,400	\$986,300	\$1,278,400	\$5,925,100
	Jobs	50	12	16	77
Rest of Nevada	Output	\$633,500	\$246,400	\$297,900	\$1,177,800
	Labor Income	\$408,200	\$136,100	\$177,000	\$721,300
	Jobs	9	1	2	12
State of Nevada	Output	\$5,944,300	\$1,952,500	\$2,443,700	\$10,340,500
	Labor Income	\$4,068,600	\$1,122,400	\$1,455,400	\$6,646,400
	Jobs	59	13	17	89

Source: ECONorthwest

Table B-2
Total Annual Economic Contribution of Participant Spending in Nevada for Alternative A (Proposed Action)

Location	Type of Impact	Direct Effect	Indirect Effect	Induced Effect	Total Effect
Assessment Area	Output	\$36,642,400	\$11,302,100	\$10,767,400	\$58,711,900
	Labor Income	\$22,915,400	\$6,442,000	\$6,412,100	\$35,769,500
	Jobs	398	75	75	548
Rest of Nevada	Output	\$5,715,300	\$2,035,300	\$1,852,300	\$9,602,900
	Labor Income	\$4,503,100	\$1,147,500	\$1,102,600	\$6,753,200
	Jobs	62	10	12	84
State of Nevada	Output	\$42,357,700	\$13,337,400	\$12,619,700	\$68,314,800
	Labor Income	\$27,418,500	\$7,589,500	\$7,514,700	\$42,522,700
	Jobs	460	85	87	631

Source: ECONorthwest

Table B-3
Total Economic Contribution of Participant Spending in Nevada for Alternative B
(Reduced Population)

Location	Type of Impact	Direct Effect	Indirect Effect	Induced Effect	Total Effect
Assessment Area	Output	\$18,321,200	\$5,651,000	\$5,383,700	\$29,355,900
	Labor Income	\$11,457,700	\$3,221,000	\$3,206,100	\$17,884,800
	Jobs	199	37	37	274
Rest of Nevada	Output	\$2,857,600	\$1,017,700	\$926,200	\$4,801,500
	Labor Income	\$2,251,600	\$573,800	\$551,300	\$3,376,700
	Jobs	31	5	6	42
State of Nevada	Output	\$21,178,800	\$6,668,700	\$6,309,900	\$34,157,400
	Labor Income	\$13,709,300	\$3,794,800	\$3,757,400	\$21,261,500
	Jobs	230	42	43	316

Source: ECONorthwest

Table B-4
Total Annual Economic Contribution of BRC Spending in Nevada for Alternative D

Location	Type of Impact	Direct Effect	Indirect Effect	Induced Effect	Total Effect
Assessment Area (Five-county Region)	Output	\$4,409,000	\$1,410,700	\$1,777,600	\$7,597,300
	Labor Income	\$3,028,100	\$815,200	\$1,059,000	\$4,902,300
	Jobs	41	9	13	63
Rest of Nevada	Output	\$527,100	\$204,300	\$244,400	\$975,800
	Labor Income	\$334,600	\$112,800	\$145,100	\$592,500
	Jobs	7	1	2	10
State of Nevada	Output	\$4,936,100	\$1,615,000	\$2,022,000	\$8,573,100
	Labor Income	\$3,362,700	\$928,000	\$1,204,100	\$5,494,800
	Jobs	48	10	14	73

Source: ECONorthwest

Table B-5
Total Annual Economic Contribution of Participant Spending in Nevada for Alternative D

Location	Type of Impact	Direct Effect	Indirect Effect	Induced Effect	Total Effect
Assessment Area	Output	\$29,313,900	\$9,041,700	\$8,613,900	\$46,969,500
	Labor Income	\$18,332,400	\$5,153,600	\$5,129,700	\$28,615,700
	Jobs	318	60	60	438
Rest of Nevada	Output	\$4,572,200	\$1,628,200	\$1,481,900	\$7,682,300
	Labor Income	\$3,602,500	\$918,000	\$882,100	\$5,402,600
	Jobs	50	8	9	67
State of Nevada	Output	\$33,886,100	\$10,669,900	\$10,095,800	\$54,651,800
	Labor Income	\$21,934,900	\$6,071,600	\$6,011,800	\$34,018,300
	Jobs	368	68	69	505

Source: ECONorthwest

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