

## **PART I – INTRODUCTION**

This document aims to

- **summarize documented long-term, cumulative impacts** and
- **relate concerns for next Burning Man Environmental Assessment (EA)**

### **A. BURNING MAN**

With **over 50,000 participants**, Burning Man is the largest permitted event on the public lands for all the federal agencies. The combination art festival, social event, and experiment in community living starts Monday before Labor Day and lasts 8 days. Since the first ‘burn’ on the Black Rock Desert in 1990, it has continued there every year since except in 1997 when it was on nearby private land. While all users impact the desert, as the largest user group, Burning Man has the most significant presence.

### **B. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)**

Upon receipt of a permit application from Black Rock City LLC, the Winnemucca BLM began the federally mandated analysis of potential impacts of the event. The results were published in an Environmental Assessment (EA) <sup>2</sup>. With the ‘Finding of No Significant Impact’ (FONSI) <sup>3,4</sup>, the BLM issued a **5-year** Special Recreation Permit (SRP) for **Burning Man 2006-10** <sup>5</sup>. Upon review of the expired the EA and a public comment period, the permit was extended for **BM 2011** <sup>6,7</sup>.

### **C. MOVING FORWARD**

A new EA is currently being contracted in **BM 2012**. The most significant issue to be addressed in the next EA is a requested 55,000 population limit for 2012 with an annual 6% increase each year <sup>8</sup>. This would allow for nearly **70,000 participants in 2016**.