
**DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
ROUND MOUNTAIN EXPANSION PROJECT**

Lead Agency: U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Battle Mountain District Office

Cooperating Agency: Nevada Department of Wildlife

Project Location: Nye County, Nevada

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ABSTRACT

Round Mountain Gold Corporation (RMGC) proposes to construct and operate the Round Mountain Expansion Project (Proposed Action), which would include the expansion of its existing open-pit gold mining and processing operations in the Round Mountain Area and development of new facilities in the Gold Hill Area, located to the north of the Round Mountain Area. The proposed Round Mountain Expansion Project is located in south-central Nevada approximately 55 miles north of the town of Tonopah in Nye County.

Proposed activities in the Round Mountain Area would include the expansion of the existing Round Mountain Project Boundary; and expansion of the Round Mountain open pit, North Waste Rock Dump, mill facility, tailings impoundment, growth media and ore stockpiles, storm water control and diversion structures, dewatering operations for the open pit, west and south dedicated leach pads, reusable pad, and process facilities. New facilities would include the development of the North Dedicated Leach Pad, lime silos, and surface installations and portal entry for an underground mine located at the bottom of the Round Mountain Pit. Exploration for additional gold ore reserves would be conducted within the Round Mountain Area. In the Gold Hill Area, new mining facilities would be developed including an open pit, two new waste rock dumps, new heap leach facility, Merrill-Crowe precipitation plant, retort and refinery, haul roads and secondary roads, production water wells, rapid infiltration basins, and ancillary facilities. Exploration for additional gold ore reserves also would be conducted within the Gold Hill Area. The proposed project would include the construction of a 1.1-mile-long Transportation/Utility Corridor between the Round Mountain and Gold Hill areas, which would include a haul road, electric transmission line, water pipeline, and communication lines.

The Proposed Action would require new surface disturbance of approximately 4,698 acres, including 4,581 acres of public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and 117 acres of private land owned by RMGC. If approved, the anticipated pit mine life would be approximately 13 years, followed by several years of activity including ongoing ore processing, reclamation, and site closure.

This Draft Environmental Impact Statement analyzes the environmental effects of the Proposed Action, two action alternatives, and the No Action Alternative.

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