

**From:** DeSordi, Janice  
**To:** [Downey Magallanes](#); [Randal Bowman](#)  
**Cc:** [Ojeda-dodds, Gisella](#); [Herbert Frost](#); [Bob Vogel](#); [Whitney Boone](#)  
**Subject:** Briefing materials for July 6 @ 2:30 re: Congressman Cook's Letter  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 05, 2017 4:39:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [CAMO Briefing Statement.pdf](#)  
[CAMO Castle Mountain Mine-Map.pdf](#)

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Per Bert Frost, please find the attached briefing materials for tomorrow's meeting.

Thank you!

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## **Briefing Statement FY 2018**

**Bureau:** National Park Service  
**Issue:** History of Castle Mountains National Monument  
**Members:** Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA) , Rep. Paul Cook (R-CA)  
**Park:** Castle Mountain National Monument (CAMO), Mojave National Preserve (MOJA)

### **Key Points:**

- CAMO is located adjacent to MOJA on the California/Nevada border.
- Senator Feinstein requested the Antiquities Act of 1906 be used to designate CAMO and on February 12, 2016, President Obama establish the site.
- In the middle of CAMO, but not inside the official boundary, there is a reclaimed open pit mine on patented mining claims, Castle Mountain Mine.
- Viceroy Gold Corporation operated the Castle Mountain Mine from 1991 to 2001. The mine produced 1.24 million ounces of gold and 400,000 ounces of silver.
- Newcastle Gold LTD has renewed interested in re-starting gold mining operations at this site and has performed exploratory drilling.

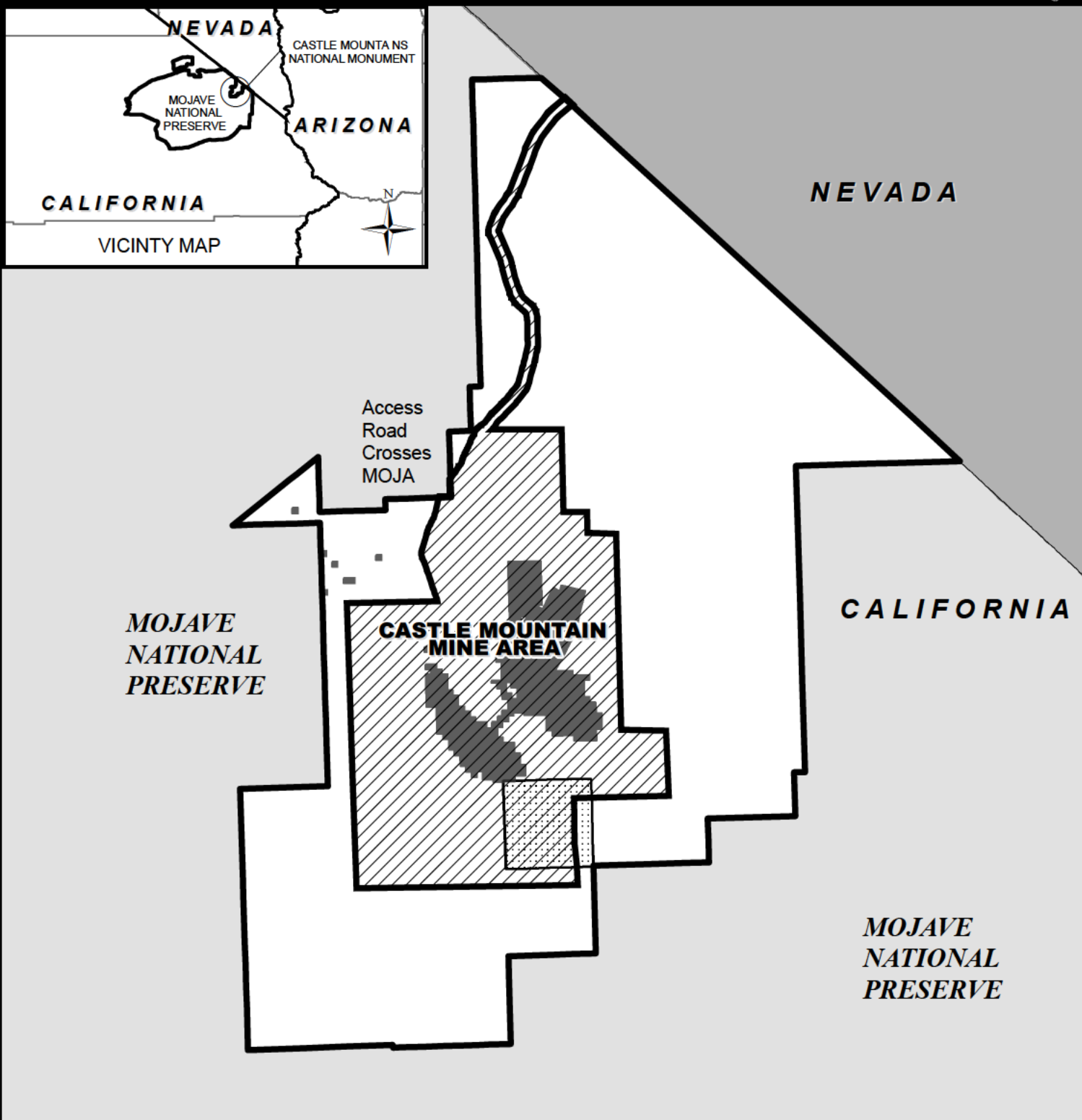
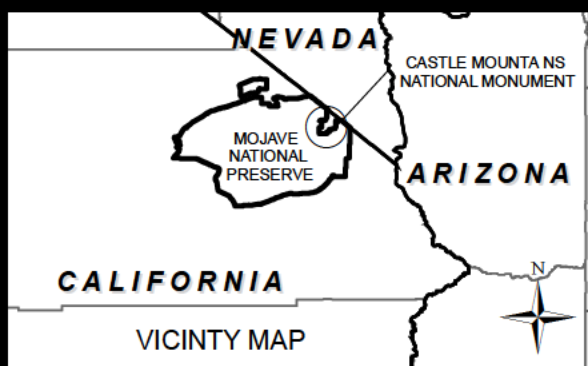
### **Background:**

- The California Desert Protection Act (CDPA) excluded an area of about 29,000 acres from Mojave National Preserve due to the presence of the active mining in the area.
- During mining operations, Viceroy removed approximately 145 million tons of overburden from three open pits and processed about 200 million tons of ore in a cyanide heap leach operation which covered approximately 150 acres. Facilities onsite included an office building, a shop, a rock crusher and conveyor system, a laboratory and processing plant and a large mill area as well as an 18 mile long 34 kvW electrical transmission line from the Nipton-Searchlight road.
- Mining operations ceased in May 2001 and reclamation was completed thereafter.
- In the early 1990's Castle Mountain Mine LLC was formed from a consolidation of Castle Mountain Ventures and MK Resources Company. In June of 2015 the company was renamed to Newcastle Gold LTD controlling a total of 7,458 acres, 1,298 in patented claims in the Castle Mountains.
- In 2010 and 2011 and 2015, Senator Feinstein introduced bills in the Senate entitled "California Desert Protection Act of 2010, 2001 and 2015 that included provisions for adding the Castle Mountain area to the Preserve while considering the mining area.
- In October, 2015 Representative Cook introduced HR 3668, the California Minerals, Off-Road Recreation, and Conservation Act, a bill that incorporated the Castle Mountains into Mojave National Preserve.





### **Current Status:**

- CAMO and MOJA are managed by the same Superintendent and staff.
- Hunting is not allowed within CAMO, as it is not allowed on NPS-managed National Monuments unless specifically legislated for. The Presidential Proclamation was silent on hunting.
- The access road to the mining area was not included in the boundary of CAMO; it remains under the administration of the Bureau of Land Management. There is an approximately 1000 foot-long stretch of the access road that crosses a corner of MOJA.

**Contact Person:** Todd Suess, Superintendent Mojave National Preserve, 760-252-6103  
**Last Updated:** Wednesday, June 28, 2017

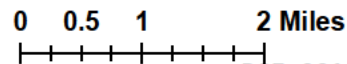


**Legend**

-  **Castle Mountains National Monument**  
Federal Lands = 20,920 +/- acres  
Patented Claims = 18 +/- acres  
State School Lands = 106 +/- acres
-  **Castle Mountain Mine Area (8,340 +/- acres)**  
(Excluded from Monument)
-  **State School Lands**
-  **Patented Claims**

OFFICE: LANDS RESOURCES PROGRAM CENTER  
REGION: PACIFIC WEST REGION  
MAP NUMBER: 198-130,749  
DATE: JANUARY 6, 2016

NOTE: ROAD CORRIDOR WITHIN CASTLE MOUNTAIN  
MINE AREA IS NOT SHOWN TO SCALE.  
ACTUAL WIDTH IS 200 FEET.



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