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Acre-feet	The volume of water required to cover 1 acre to a depth of 1 foot; equivalent to a volume of 43,560 cf.
Adsorption	A process in which atoms or molecules move from a bulk phase (that is, solid, liquid, or gas) onto a solid or liquid surface.
Adverse Effect (under the National Historic Preservation Act)	An adverse effect is found when an undertaking may alter, directly or indirectly, any of the characteristics of a historic property that qualify the property for inclusion in the NRHP in a manner that would diminish the integrity of the property's location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association.
Albedo	Reflective power, the fraction of incident light or electromagnetic radiation that is reflected by a surface or body (as the moon or cloud).
Allotment	A unit of land suitable and available for livestock grazing that is managed as one grazing unit.
Alluvium	Relatively recent deposits of sedimentary material laid down in river beds, flood plains, lakes, or at the base of mountain slopes. (adj. alluvial).
Ambient	The environment as it exists at the point of measurement and against which changes or impacts are measured.
Ambient Noise	Total, all-encompassing noise associated with a given environment and time.
Animal Unit Month	Grazing of a 1,000 pound cow with suckling calf for 1 month (or equivalent metabolic weight of other kinds of livestock).
Aquifer	A body of rock that is sufficiently permeable to conduct groundwater and to yield economically significant quantities of water to wells and springs.
Aquitard	Low permeability layer that restricts movement of groundwater.
Assay	A chemical test performed on a sample of ores or minerals to determine the amount of valuable metals contained.
Backfill	Waste material used to fill the void created by mining an orebody.
Background Noise	Noise from all sources other than that from a particular source of interest (e.g., other than mining noise if mining noise were being investigated).

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Barren Solution	In a metallurgical process, the solution left after the mineral value has been removed.
Bedrock	Any solid rock exposed at the surface or overlain by unconsolidated material.
Bioremediation	The use of biological agents, such as bacteria or plants, to remove or neutralize contaminants, as in contaminated soil or water.
Blasthole	A drill hole in a mine that is filled with explosives in order to blast loose a quantity of rock.
Carbon-in-leach	A method of recovering gold and silver from ore by simultaneous dissolution and adsorption of the precious metals onto fine carbon in an agitated tank of ore solids/slurry.
Carbon-in-pulp	A method of recovering gold and silver from ore by adsorption of the precious metals onto fine carbon in an agitated tank of ore solids/slurry. Similar to carbon-in-leach process, but initially the ore solids/slurry is subjected to cyanide leaching in similar tanks, but without carbon, followed by carbon-in-pulp..
Carrying Capacity	The maximum population of an animal that an ecosystem can support without being degraded.
Code of Federal Regulations	The compilation of federal regulations adopted by federal agencies through a rule-making process.
Community Noise Equivalent Level	Level equivalent (Leq) for a 24-hour, midnight to midnight period with 5 dBA added to the sound levels from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and 10 dBA added to the sound levels between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.
Concentrator	A milling plant that produces a concentrate of the valuable minerals or metals. Further treatment is required to recover the pure metal.
Cone of Depression	The depression of groundwater levels around a pumping well caused by the withdrawal of water.
Conveyor	A rubber reinforced continuous belt supported on rollers called idlers which transports solid materials between stockpiles, surge bins, and feeders. The belt is driven by an electric drive motor at the head pulley.
Critical Habitat	Habitat that is present in minimum amounts and is the determining factor in the potential for population maintenance and growth.

Cumulative Effects	The combined environmental impacts that accrue over time and space from a series of similar or related individual actions, contaminants, or projects. Although each action may seem to have a negligible impact, the combined effect can be significant. Included are activities of the past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future; synonymous with cumulative impacts.
Cyanide	A chemical compound containing carbon and nitrogen used to extract gold and silver from ore.
dB	Decibel. A unit used in expressing ratios of electric or acoustic power; the relative loudness of sound.
dBA	A-weighting. The most commonly used frequency weighting measure; simulates human sound perception and correlates well with human perception of the annoying aspects of noise.
Decline	In underground operations, a ramp that provides access to the ore body and for haulage of the ore to the surface. Often started into the high wall of an open pit.
Dewatering	Withdrawal of water from an aquifer; the process of separating solids from solution by sedimentation in tanks called thickeners or by filtering the solution through filter cloth in filters.
Direct Impacts	Impacts that are caused by an action and occur at the same time and place; synonymous with direct effects.
Discharge	The volume of water flowing past a point per unit time, commonly expressed as cubic feet per second, gallons per minute, or million gallons per day.
Disturbed Area	An area where natural vegetation and soils have been removed.
Dore	Unrefined gold and silver bars usually containing more than 90 percent precious metal.
Drainage	The natural channel through which water flows some time of the year; natural and artificial means for affecting discharge of water as by a system of surface and subsurface passages.
Drawdown	The lowering of the water level in a well as a result of withdrawal; the reduction in groundwater level at a point caused by the withdrawal of water from an aquifer.
Drift	Horizontal or subhorizontal development openings made in a mine.

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Electrowinning	A process of recovering metals from solution by electrolysis.
Endangered Species	Plant or animal species identified by the Secretary of the Interior as endangered in accordance with the 1973 Endangered Species Act; Any species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
Erosion	The wearing away of soil and rock by weathering, mass wasting, and the action of water and wind.
Flotation	A milling process in which valuable mineral particles are induced to become attached to bubbles and float away from the waste particles in a solid/solution pulp.
Fugitive Dust	Dust particles suspended randomly in the air from various sources including road travel, excavation, and rock loading operations.
Geochemistry	The study of the distribution and amounts of the chemical elements in minerals, ores, rocks, soils, water, and the atmosphere, and their circulation in nature on the basis of the properties of their atoms and ions.
Geomembrane	Geosynthetic (generally polymeric) impermeable membrane often used as liners for ponds, landfills, and mining leach pads.
Geotechnical	A branch of engineering concerned with the engineering design aspects of slope stability, settlement, earth pressures, bearing capacity, seepage control, and erosion.
Grizzly (or mantle)	A grating, usually constructed of steel rails, placed over the top of a chute or ore pass for the purpose of stopping large pieces of rock or ore that may hang up in the pass.
Groundwater Drawdown Area	The reduction in groundwater level at a point caused by the withdrawal of water from an aquifer; the lowering of the water level in a well as a result of withdrawal.
Groundwater Recovery	An increase in groundwater levels such that the groundwater elevations rise above initial baseline groundwater elevations. Used to refer to an increase in water levels following drawdown.
Groundwater Table	The surface between the zone of saturation and the zone of aeration; that surface of a body of unconfined groundwater at which the pressure is equal to that of the atmosphere.
Growth Media	Suitable material that may be used in place of topsoil for reclamation purposes.

Gyratory Crusher	A machine that crushes ore between an eccentrically mounted crushing cone and a fixed crushing throat.
Habitat	A specific set of physical conditions that surround a single species, a group of species, or a large community. In wildlife management, the major components of habitat are considered to be food, water, cover, and living space.
Hanging Wall	The side of a fault that hangs above the fault plane.
Heap Leaching	The process of recovering gold and other metals from low-grade ores by leaching ore that has been mined and placed on a specially prepared impermeable liner. A chemical solution is applied through low volume emitters, and the metal bearing leachate solution percolates and is collected for metal recovery.
Impact	A modification in the status of the environment brought about by the proposed action or an alternative.
Indirect Impacts	Impacts that are caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable (40 CFR 1508.8); synonymous with indirect effects.
Irretrievable	Applies primarily to the lost production of renewable natural resources during the life of the project.
Irreversible	Applies primarily to the use of nonrenewable resources, such as minerals, cultural resources, wetlands, or to those factors that are renewable only over long time spans, such as soil productivity. Irreversible also includes loss of future options.
Isopleth	The line connecting points on a graph or map that have equal or corresponding values with regard to certain variables.
Jaw Crusher	A machine in which rock is broken by the action of swinging steel plates.
Jig	A piece of milling equipment used to concentrate high density minerals by gravity on a screen submerged in water, either by the reciprocating motion of the screen or by the pulsation of water through it.
Jurisdictional Wetland	A wetland area identified and delineated by specific technical criteria, field indicators, and other information for purposes of public agency jurisdiction. The public agencies that administer jurisdictional wetlands are the USACE, the USEPA, the USFWS, and the NRCS.
Key Observation Point	An observer position on a travel route used to determine visible area.

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L_d	Day average sound level: Leq for the daytime period from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
L_{dn}	Day-night average sound level: Leq for a 24-hour, midnight to midnight period with 10 dBA added to the sound levels from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. (Sometimes also represented as DNL.)
Leaching	A chemical process for the extraction of valuable minerals from ore.
Lift	In mining, typically refers to a construction method of sequential vertical placement of material, generally ore and wasterock.
Merrill-Crowe (M-C) Circuit	A process which recovers precious metals from solution by first clarifying the solution, then removing the air contained in the clarified solution, and then precipitating the gold and silver from the solution by injecting zinc dust into the solution. The valuable sludge is collected in a filter press for drying and further treatment.
Mill	A plant in which ore is treated and metals are recovered or prepared for smelting; also a revolving drum used for the grinding of ores in preparation for treatment.
Mitigate, Mitigation	To cause to become less severe or harmful; actions to avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce or eliminate, and compensate for impacts to environmental resources.
Monitor	To systematically and repeatedly watch, observe, or measure environmental conditions in order to track changes.
National Environmental Policy Act	The NEPA of 1969; the national policy charter for protecting the environment. NEPA establishes policy, sets goals, and provides means for carrying out the policy. Regulations from 40 CFR 1500-1508 implement the act.
National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended	Act directing federal agencies to consider the effects of their programs and projects on properties listed on or eligible for the NRHP. If a proposed action might impact any archaeological, historical, or architectural resource, this act mandates consultation with the proper agencies.
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System	As authorized by the Clean Water Act, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program controls water pollution by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants into waters of the United States. Industrial, municipal and other facilities must obtain permits if their discharges go directly to surface waters of the United States. These permits are referred to as NPDES permits and are administered by the USEPA.

National Register of Historic Places	A register maintained by the National Park Service that lists districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture that meet criteria set forth in 36 CFR 60.
Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act	A Federal law passed in 1990 that provides a process for museums and Federal agencies to return certain Native American cultural items -- human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony -- to lineal descendants, and culturally affiliated Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations.
Native Species	Plants that originated in the area in which they are found (i.e., they naturally occur in that area).
Nevada Administrative Code	The text of the regulations implementing the laws passed by the Nevada legislature.
Nevada Revised Statutes	The text of laws passed by the Nevada legislature.
Ore	A deposit of rock from which a valuable mineral or minerals can be economically extracted.
Orebody	A natural concentration of valuable material that can be extracted and sold at a profit.
Permanent loss	A loss that cannot be reversed or returned to the original condition. Example: loss of vegetation from the open pit areas since it would not be reclaimed.
Pregnant Solution	Solution derived from the leaching process that contains a high enough concentration of metals to allow efficient extraction; a value-bearing solution in a hydrometallurgical operaton.
Project Alternatives	Alternatives to the Proposed Action developed through the NEPA process.
Reagent	A chemical used in the mineral recovery process.
Reclamation	The restoration of a site after mining or exploration activity is completed.
Recovery (Groundwater)	An increase in groundwater levels such that the groundwater elevations rise above initial baseline groundwater elevations. Refers to an increase in water levels following drawdown.
Refinery	Facility at which precious metal is fire refined to high purity gold and silver.

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Reserves	Identified resources of mineral-bearing rock from which the mineral can be extracted profitably with existing technology and under present economic conditions.
Retort	A thermal processing unit capable of volatilizing mercury or other metals and subsequently condensing the volatilized metal for recovery.
Riparian	Situated on or pertaining to the bank of a river, stream, or other body of water. Riparian is normally used to refer to plants of all types that grow along streams, rivers, or at spring and seep sites.
RMGC's Environmental Protection Measures	Measures that are part of the proposed project and would be implemented by RMGC to avoid or minimize impacts to resources.
Runoff	Precipitation which is not retained on the site where it falls and is not intercepted by vegetation, absorbed by the land surface or evaporated, and thus flows overland; That portion of precipitation that moves from the land to surface water bodies. (the upper layers of the soil).
Run-of-Mine Ore	Mined ore of a size that can be processed without further crushing.
Saturation Index	Index that measures the level of mineral saturation in the pit lake water.
Sediment	Particulate matter that can be transported by fluid flow, and which eventually is deposited; Material suspended in or settling to the bottom of a liquid. Sediment input comes from natural sources, such as soil erosion and rock weathering, construction activities, or anthropogenic sources, such as forestry or agricultural practices.
Sediment Load	The amount of sediment (sand, silt, and fine particles) carried by a stream or river.
Semi-autogenous Grinding Mill	Mill that utilizes steel balls in addition to large rocks for grinding.
Sensitive Receptors (Noise)	Activities or land uses that are more susceptible than others to noise interference.
Sensitive Viewpoint	Similar to a Key Observation Point, but of lesser sensitivity due to infrequency of use, small numbers of viewers, or similar mitigating circumstances.
Solutions	Various water solutions in the leaching circuit, from pregnant solution containing significant amounts of precious metals and leaching reagents (chemicals), to barren solution from which the mineral value has been removed.

Sound Pressure Levels	The instantaneous difference between the actual pressure produced by a sound wave and the average or barometric pressure at a given point in space.
Species	A group of individuals of common ancestry that closely resemble each other structurally and physiologically, and in nature interbreed producing fertile offspring.
Spent Ore	Ore that has been processed and from which current economically extractable metals have been recovered.
Spiral Concentrator	Gravity based concentrating device used for beneficiation of ore that separates light density material from heavier density material.
Stope	An underground excavation in the form of steps made by the mining of ore from steeply inclined or vertical veins.
Tailings	Material remaining after most of the recoverable valuable minerals have been extracted.
Tailings Pond	Facility designed to receive mill tailings where the slurry is ponded to allow the sedimentation of solid particles from the water. The water is typically collected and reused in the milling process.
Threatened Species	Any species of plant or animal that is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
Total Dissolved Solids	The total amount of dissolved material, organic or inorganic, contained in a sample of water.
Total Suspended Solids	The amount of undissolved particles suspended in a sample of water.
Trommel	A revolving cylindrical sieve used for screening or sizing rock and ore.
Visual Resource	The composite of basic terrain, geologic features, water features, vegetation patterns, and land use effects that typify a land unit and influence the visual appeal the unit may have for viewers.
Visual Resource Management Classes	A classification of landscapes according to the kinds of structures and changes that are acceptable to meet established visual goals (BLM).
Waste Rock	Unmineralized, or sometimes mineralized, rock that is not minable at a profit.
Water Rights	Water.nv.gov (water words dictionary)

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Water Table	The level in the saturated zone at which the pressure is equal to the atmospheric pressure; the upper surface of the groundwater reservoir.
Wetlands	Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater with a frequency and duration sufficient to support (and under normal circumstances do support) a prevalence of vegetation or aquatic life that requires saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction.