

## 4.0 Consultation and Coordination

This chapter reviews agency and public consultation and coordination that occurred prior to and during preparation of this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). It also includes the list of agencies and individuals who received the draft document.

### 4.1 Public Participation and Scoping

This environmental document was prepared in consultation and coordination with various federal, state, and local agencies, organizations, and individuals. Agency consultation and public participation have been accomplished through a variety of formal and informal methods, including scoping meetings, responses to e-mails, and meetings with individual public agencies and interest groups. This section summarizes these activities.

Public involvement in the EIS process includes the steps necessary to identify and address public concerns and needs. The public involvement process assists agencies in: 1) broadening the information base for decision making; 2) informing the public about proposed actions and potential long-term impacts that could result from projects; and 3) ensuring that public needs are understood by the agencies.

Public participation in the EIS process is required by the National Environmental Policy Act at four specific points: scoping period, review of Draft EIS, review of Final EIS, and receipt of the Record of Decision (ROD).

- **Scoping:** The public is provided a 30-day scoping period to disclose potential issues and concerns associated with the Proposed Action. Information obtained by the agencies during public scoping is combined with issues identified by the agencies and which forms the scope of the EIS.
- **Draft EIS Comment Period:** A 45-day Draft EIS comment period is initiated by publication of a Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft EIS in the Federal Register (FR).
- **Final EIS Review:** A 30-day Final EIS availability period is initiated by publication of the NOA for the Final EIS in the FR.
- **ROD:** Subsequent to the 30-day availability period for the Final EIS, the ROD would be prepared.

#### 4.1.1 Scoping

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) initiated the public scoping process by publishing a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS in the FR on June 21, 2010 (FR Volume 75, Number 118). Public scoping meetings were held on July 6, 2010, in Owyhee; July 7, 2010, in Battle Mountain; and July 8, 2010, in Elko, Nevada, to obtain input on issues and concerns to be evaluated in the EIS. The public scoping meetings were conducted in an open house format. Attendees were provided information about the project and given an opportunity to ask resource specialists and BLM representatives questions, as well as express their concerns.

The BLM received a total of 15 comment submittals (e.g., letter, comment form, or email) during the scoping period, resulting in a total of 143 comments and questions. Most of the comments the BLM received were from federal and state agencies. Scoping comments were used to help determine the scope of issues to be addressed and help identify the significant issues related to the Proposed Action. The Public Scoping Comment Summary Report for this EIS (BLM 2010h) provides a detailed table listing

each individual comment, its source, and where the comment will be addressed in the EIS. **Table 4-1** describes the distribution of scoping comments by organization. The key issues identified during the scoping process included:

- Impacts to water resources (surface water and groundwater);
- Impacts to ecosystems, rangeland resources, and wildlife; and
- Air emissions impacts, including mercury.

**Table 4-1 Scoping Comments Distribution**

Organization Name	Total Number of Comments
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	3
Bureau of Reclamation	2
Nevada Division of Environmental Quality	3
Nevada Department of Transportation	1
Nevada Department of Wildlife (3) (NDOW)	5
Nevada Division of Water Resources	1
Public Citizens (4)	7
State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)	1
United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	3
United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)	117
<b>Total</b>	<b>143</b>

#### 4.1.2 Public Review of the Draft EIS

The Draft EIS will be available for the 45-day public review and comment period from the date the NOA is published in the FR. Public meetings will be held in Owyhee, Battle Mountain, and Elko, Nevada during the 45-day comment period.

#### 4.2 Consultation and Coordination with Federal, State, and Local Agencies, and Tribes

Issues related to agency consultation and review included mining regulation and reclamation, biological resources, cultural resources, socioeconomics, and land and water management. Cultural resource consultations apply to the potential for impacts to important historic, archaeological, or traditional sites important to Native Americans. A Memorandum of Agreement between the BLM and Nevada SHPO will be utilized for this EIS. The BLM and SHPO consulted and concurred on the treatment plan.

The USFWS provided input on the potential for federally listed, proposed, and candidate species within the proposed project area. Additional comments included concerns relative to species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, avian collision, wetlands, and cumulative groundwater pumping.

The USEPA provided comments on a wide variety of topics including the development of alternatives mitigation measures, surface water and groundwater quality and quantity, management of leachate, waste rock characterization and placement, closure and reclamation, air quality, waters of the United States, sensitive species, environmental justice, and socioeconomics.

As the state agency with jurisdiction and special expertise related to impacts on wildlife, NDOW participated as a cooperating agency in the preparation of this EIS. NDOW was primarily concerned with the placement of the West Waste Rock Disposal Facility relative to big game movement through the proposed project area. NDOW also provided information on mule deer migration corridors, as well as information on sage-grouse, mule deer, and antelope use areas.

In addition, the Elko County Commission also agreed to participate as a cooperating agency to review an analysis of the socioeconomic impact of mining on the county.

Under Executive Order 13084, the BLM is required to establish regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with Native American tribal governments on the development of regulatory policies and issuance of permits that could significantly or uniquely affect their communities. On October 1, 2009, the BLM sent letters to the following tribes, bands, and interested parties notifying them of the project:

- Battle Mountain Band;
- Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation;
- Elko Band;
- Duckwater Shoshone Tribe;
- Ely Shoshone Tribe;
- Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation;
- South Fork Band;
- Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone;
- Wells Band Council;
- Yomba Shoshone Tribe; and
- Interested Parties
  - Bureau of Indian Affairs
  - Western Shoshone Committee
  - Western Shoshone Defense Project
  - Western Shoshone Descendants of Big Smoky Valley.

The BLM presented project information and maps at the Battle Mountain Band Meeting on February 25, 2010. In addition, Native American field trips to the proposed project area occurred on August 27 and October 1, 2010. The field visits provided an opportunity for the Tribes and bands to view the proposed project area and identify any sites or places that may be of tribal importance. Any specific information provided by Tribal members concerning Native American traditional use and/or spiritual sites in or near the proposed project area will remain confidential. Consultation with the contacted Tribes and bands is ongoing and would continue up to and including project construction.

### **4.3 List of Contacts**

The following agencies, businesses, organizations, and individuals were contacted in the course of preparing this EIS.

### **4.3.1 Federal Agencies**

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

Bureau of Land Management – Nevada State Office, Reno

Bureau of Land Management – Washington, D.C.

Bureau of Reclamation – Carson City, NV

Library of Congress Exchange and Gift Division – Washington, D.C.

Office of Public Affairs – Washington, D.C.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Reno, NV

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Sacramento, CA

U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service – Fallon, NV

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest – Elko, NV

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Ruby Mountain/Jarbidge Ranger Stations – Wells, NV

U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Environmental Compliance – Washington, D.C.

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs – Washington, D.C.

U.S. Department of the Interior, Natural Resources Defense Council – Washington, D.C.

U.S. Department of the Interior, Natural Resources Library, Gifts and Exchange Section –  
Washington D.C.

U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance – Washington, D.C.

U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance –  
Oakland, CA

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Las Vegas, NV

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – San Francisco, CA

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Federal Activities – San Francisco, CA

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Federal Activities – Washington, D.C.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Arlington, VA

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Reno, NV

U.S. Geological Survey – Denver Federal Center, Denver, CO

U.S. Post Office – Elko, NV

U.S. Post Office – Tuscarora, NV

### **4.3.2 State Agencies**

Great Basin College, USDA Cooperative Extension Service

Nevada Commission on Tourism, Motorsports Manager

Nevada Department of Agriculture

Nevada Department of Transportation – Carson City, NV

Nevada Department of Transportation – Elko, NV

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection/Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation

Nevada Division of Forestry  
Nevada Division of Minerals  
Nevada Division of Water Resources  
Nevada Division of Wildlife  
Nevada Mining Association  
Nevada State Clearing House  
Nevada State Historic Preservation Office  
University of Arizona – James E. Rogers College of Law  
University of Colorado  
University of Nevada, Cooperative Extension, Area of Natural Resources  
University of Nevada-Reno – Department of Mining Engineering  
University of Nevada-Reno – Department of Range, Wildlife, and Forestry  
Nevada Department of Wildlife – Elko, NV

#### **4.3.3 Elected Officials**

Theodore Beutel – Eureka County District Attorney  
John Carpenter – State Assemblyman, Elko, NV  
John Ensign – State Assemblyman, Reno, NV  
Pete Goicoechea – State Assemblyman, Eureka, NV  
Don Gustavson – State Assemblyman, Sparks, NV  
Dean Heller – U.S. Senator  
Harry Reid – U.S. Senator  
Dean Rhoads – Rural Nevada Senatorial District  
City Mayor – Carlin, NV  
City Mayor – Elko, NV  
Public Administrator – Winnemucca, NV

#### **4.3.4 Local Agencies**

Carlin Planning Board  
City of Elko  
City of Wells  
Elko Chamber of Commerce  
Elko City Manager  
Elko City Planning Board  
Elko County Board of Commissioners  
Elko County Commission  
Elko County Commissioner

Elko County Public Works Department  
Elko County School District  
Elko Public Land Use Planning Commission  
Eureka County Commissioners  
Eureka County Department of Natural Resources  
Eureka County Public Land Advisory Commission  
Humboldt County Board of Commissioners  
Humboldt River Basin Water Authority  
Lander County Clerk  
Lander County Planning Commission  
Mineral County Board of Commissioners  
Mineral County Chamber of Commerce  
Mineral County Clerk  
Mountain City, Nevada Post Office  
Owyhee Post Office  
Wells Chamber of Commerce  
Winnemucca Chamber of Commerce

#### **4.3.5 Tribal Organizations**

Battle Mountain Band Council  
Bureau of Indian Affairs – Eastern Nevada Agency  
Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation  
Duckwater Shoshone Tribe  
Elko Band Council  
Ely Shoshone Tribe  
Goshute Business Council  
South Fork Band Council  
Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone  
Wells Band Council  
Western Shoshone Committee  
Western Shoshone Defense Council  
Western Shoshone Defense Project  
Western Shoshone Descendents of Big Smoky Valley  
Yomba Shoshone Tribe

**4.3.6 Newspapers and Libraries**

Elko County Library

Eureka County Library

Great Basin College Library

Lander County Library

Nevada State Library

Nevada State Library and Archives

University of Nevada Libraries, Business and Government Information Center

University of Nevada-Las Vegas, James Dickinson Library

University of Nevada-Reno, Delamare Library

**4.3.7 Private Organizations and Companies**

25 Ranch LLC

Adobe Hills Ranch, LLC

AFS, Water Quality Section

Agri Beef Company

Allied Nevada Gold Holdings

American Horse Protection Association

Animal Welfare Institute

ATNA Resources, Incorporated

Bamco Exploration, Inc.

Baroid Drilling Fluids, Inc.

Barrick Gold Exploration, Inc.

Barrick Gold of North America

Barrick Goldstrike Mines, Inc.

Boss Tanks

Cameco U.S., Incorporated

Citizens Against Recreation Eviction USA

Colorado Wild Horse and Burro Coalition

Committee for Idaho's High Desert

Cortez Gold Mines

Dee Gold Mine

Earth Works

Ellison Ranching Company

Evolving Gold Corporation

Friends of Nevada Wilderness

Friends of Nevada Wildlife

Fronteer Development USA, Incorporated  
Glamis Marigold Mine  
Glendale Ranches  
Great Basin Ecology, Incorporated  
Great Basin Gold, Limited  
Great Basin Resource Watch  
Halliburton Energy Service Incorporated  
Hawkwatch International  
Hecla Ventures Corporation  
Hi-Tech Exploration LTD  
Humboldt Outfitters, Incorporated  
Intermountain Water Alliance  
Intertech Services Corporation  
Isaiah Capital Trust  
Largo Flight LTD  
Maggie Creek Ranch  
Marigold Mining Company  
Meridian Minerals Corporation  
Meridian Rossi Corporation  
Mineral Policy Center – Washington, D.C.  
Mines Regulations Reporter  
Minex Resources, Incorporated  
National Mustang Association, Inc. – National Headquarters  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Natural Resources Management Advisory Commission – Elko, NV  
Need More Sheep Company  
Nevada Archeological Association  
Nevada Energy – Elko  
Nevada Energy – Las Vegas  
Nevada Energy – Reno  
Nevada High Country Tours  
Nevada Land Action Association and Nevada Cattlemen's Association  
Nevada Mining Association  
Nevada Outdoor Recreation Association  
Nevada Trend Exploration  
Nevada Wilderness Project

Nevada Wildlife Federation, Incorporated  
Nevada Woolgrowers Association  
Newmont Mining Corporation  
Ormsby Sports Club  
Parsons, Behle, and Latimer  
Public Lands Foundation – Arlington, VA  
Public Resource Association  
Queenstake Resources USA, Incorporated  
Range Magazine  
Rayrock DBS Cordex Exploration  
Red Rock Audubon Society  
Resource Concepts Incorporated  
Rodeo Creek Gold, Incorporated  
Royal Gold  
Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge  
Sierra Club – San Francisco, CA  
Sierra Club – Washington, D.C.  
Sierra Club, Toiyabe Chapter – Reno, NV  
Sierra Pacific Power Company – Elko, NV  
Sierra Pacific Power Company – Reno, NV  
Squaw Valley Ranch, LLC  
Sustainable Grazing Coalition  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Wilderness Society  
Tri Quest Resources – Southwood Lodge Lake  
TS Joint Venture  
Western Cultural Resource Management  
Western Watersheds Project  
White Knight Gold (US) Incorporated  
Wild Horse Commission  
Wild Horse Organized Assistance  
Wild Horse Spirit  
Wilderness Impact Research Foundation  
Wild Horse Observers Association  
Wildlife and Habitat Protection

**4.3.8 Individuals**

Bauman, Jim	Johnson, Don
Beatler, Joe	Lococo, Andrea
Beitia, Dan	MacDonald, Cindy
Clinton, Carol	Marshall, Laurel
Collins, Jim	Michna, Robert
Collord, Leta	Morris, Don
Coltharp, Hugh & Myrtle	Myers, Charlie
Conley, Ken	Noel, Dotta
Daniel, John	Pattani, F. J.
Davis, Richard L.	Pescio, Carl
Dubois, Mark	Pettit, Paul & Valery
Ellison, John	Pond, Jim
Enos, Tom	Redfern, Richard
Fiorenzi, Lenny	Salisbury, Ray
Jennifer Garrett	Sanders, Mark
Geddie, John	Scholl, Roger
Haddock, Rich	Seal, Thom
Hatch, Robert	Slagowski, Carl
Haye, Stan	Sweide, Alan
Hoffman, Lee	Syrjala, Edward S.
Houston, Bill	Todd, Jerry
Ingersoll, Bob	Watson, Jason
Johnson, Bryan	Wilshire, Dr. Howard