

CHAPTER 5

CONSULTATION, COORDINATION, AND PREPARATION

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation specific to the Emigrant Project (Project) is summarized in this chapter. The summary indicates how the public has been involved, identifies persons and organizations to be contacted for feedback, and specifies time frames for accomplishing goals in accordance with 40 CFR 1506.6.

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

Public participation in the EIS process is required by NEPA at four specific points: the scoping period, review of Draft EIS, review of Final EIS, and receipt of the Records of Decision.

1. **Scoping:** The public was 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 and comments received on the 2005 Emigrant Project Draft EIS were combined with issues identified by the agencies to form the scope of this EIS.

2. **Draft EIS Review:** A 60-day Draft EIS review period was initiated by publication of the Notice of Availability for the Draft EIS in the Federal Register. A public hearing was held in Elko, Nevada during the 60-day comment period.
3. **Final EIS Review:** A 30-day Final EIS review period is initiated by publication of the Notice of Availability for the Final EIS in the Federal Register.
4. **Record of Decision:** Subsequent to the 30-day review period for the Final EIS, a Record of Decision would be prepared.

TRIBAL COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION

Communication and coordination with local tribes is addressed in the *Native American Concerns* section of Chapter 3.

IMPLEMENTATION

The public participation process for the Emigrant Project EIS is comprised of the following five components:

SCOPING

To allow an early and open process for determining the scope of issues and concerns related to the Proposed Action (40 CFR 1510.7), a public scoping period was provided by BLM. A Notice of Intent to prepare the EIS was published in the Federal Register (Volume

69, Number 101 ppg. 29744-29745) on May 25, 2004, (NV-910-04-1990-EX). Publication of this notice in the Federal Register initiated a 30-day public scoping period for the Proposed Action that ended on July 7, 2004.

BLM mailed a scoping package that included a project summary and maps to individuals and organizations listed on the Elko Field Office mailing list. In addition, the scoping package was distributed at public scoping meetings. The Plan of Operations was provided on request.

Concurrent with these actions, BLM issued a news release to radio stations and news organizations with coverage in the surrounding geographical regions in Nevada, Idaho, and Utah.

A public scoping meeting was held by BLM in Elko on June 16, 2004. Separate meetings were held for the Elko and Eureka County Commissioners. Thirty-two members of the public attended, of which six submitted written comments on the Project. Written responses were received from nine individuals during the public scoping period. Six comment letters were received on the 2005 Emigrant Project Draft EIS.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE DRAFT EIS

The Draft EIS was distributed as follows:

- A Notice of Availability of the Emigrant Mine Project Draft EIS appeared in the Federal Register on November 19, 2008, (73 FR 69675).
- A news release was provided to all area media by BLM at the beginning of the 60-day comment period on the Draft EIS.

- The Draft EIS was distributed to interested parties identified in an updated EIS mailing list and the Draft EIS was posted on the BLM Elko Field Office website.

DISTRIBUTION OF FINAL EIS

This Final EIS will be distributed as follows:

- Notice of Availability will be published in the Federal Register;
- Copies of the Final EIS or Abbreviated Final EIS will be sent to addresses on the mailing list.
- The Final EIS will be posted on the BLM Elko Field Office website.
- A news release issued to the same news outlets used for previous Project announcements.

RECORD OF DECISION

A Record of Decision will be distributed by BLM to individuals and organizations identified on the updated Project mailing list. A news release will be provided to the news media. A notice of availability (NOA) will be published in the Federal Register.

CRITERIA AND METHODS BY WHICH PUBLIC INPUT IS EVALUATED

Letters and oral comments received by BLM on the Draft EIS have been reviewed and evaluated by the agency to determine if information provided in the comments would require a formal response or contains new data that may identify deficiencies in the EIS. Responses to

comments received on the Draft EIS are contained in Chapter 6 of this Final EIS. Comments on the 2008 Draft EIS received from the public and from an internal BLM review were considered and incorporated as appropriate into the proposed plan of operations and the Final EIS. Public comments resulted in the addition of clarifying text and the inclusion of an Adaptive Management Plan.

CONSULTATION WITH OTHERS

In addition to the cooperating agencies identified in Chapter 1, the following state and federal agencies and other entities were consulted during preparation of the EIS:

- Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Nevada Department of Human Resources
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Tomera Ranches
- Te-Moak Tribe Environmental Department

LIST OF PREPARERS AND REVIEWERS

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 Wetlands, Aquatics, Fisheries/Special Status Species – Carol Evans
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 Grazing Management/Range Resources – Donna Jewell
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**MAILING LIST
EMIGRANT PROJECT**

This document was mailed to approximately 100 agencies and individuals.