

4.0 Public Consultation and Coordination

4.1 Scoping

4.1.1 Notification

The initial step in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process is to notify the public, other government agencies, and Native American Tribes of the lead agency's intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) by publishing the Notice of Intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register*. The NOI for the project was published in the *Federal Register* on April 19, 2010 (Federal Register Vol. 75, No. 74), and included a description of the proposed project and provided BLM contact information. The BLM mailed "Dear Interested Party" letters on April 28, 2010, to 211 interested parties including federal, state, and local agencies, Tribes, individuals, and organizations. The letters included a description of the proposed project, the scoping statement, and a project location map. A news release was issued on April 21, 2010, announcing publication of the NOI, the initiation of the public scoping period, and information about the upcoming public scoping meetings. The scoping period ended on June 4, 2010.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) encouraged the Native American Tribes to participate in the scoping process. Dear Interested Party letters were mailed to the Tribes on April 28, 2010, announcing publication of the NOI, the initiation of the public scoping period, and information about the upcoming scoping meetings. See Section 4.3, Draft EIS Distribution List, for a list of the Tribes that were notified.

4.1.2 Scoping Meetings

Public scoping meetings offer an opportunity for public participation during the scoping period. The meetings are designed to promote information exchange about the proposed project and to gather public input. The BLM initially announced and held four public scoping meetings in Winnemucca, Battle Mountain, Elko, and Mountain City, respectively. The Shoshone-Paiute Tribe of Duck Valley requested an additional public meeting be held in Owyhee, Nevada. On May 20, 2010, the BLM held a public meeting at the Owyhee Tribal Council Headquarters to provide project information and receive their comments and concerns about the proposed project.

A notification flyer was posted at the local post offices. The dates, locations, and number of public attendees at all scoping meetings are provided in **Table 4-1**.

Table 4-1 Scoping Meetings

Meeting Location	Meeting Date/Time	Number of Attendees that Signed In
Winnemucca, Nevada	May 10, 2010, 4:00-7:00 p.m.	32
Battle Mountain, Nevada	May 11, 2010, 4:00-7:00 p.m.	13
Elko, Nevada	May 12, 2010, 4:00-7:00 p.m.	17
Mountain City, Nevada	May 13, 2010, 4:00-7:00 p.m.	11
Owyhee, Nevada	May 20, 2010, 5:00-8:00 p.m.	22

The Mountain City and Owyhee scoping meetings were conducted in a semi-open house format. The BLM opened the meetings, thanked participants for attending, and described the NEPA process, federal guidelines, and the dates the public could provide their comments to the BLM during the EIS

process. The project applicant, Rodeo Creek Gold Inc (RCG), provided an overview of the proposed project and modifications to the project to protect resources. The presentations were followed by a question and answer period to allow meeting attendees the opportunity to ask the BLM representatives, the project applicant, and the NEPA contractor questions. Display boards showing the NEPA process, the general location, the project area boundary, the ore transportation route, the proposed facility details, the project area surface ownership, and the post-mining topography were provided to facilitate conversation.

The Winnemucca, Battle Mountain, and Elko scoping meetings were held as an informal open house to allow meeting attendees the opportunity to ask the BLM representatives, the project applicant, and the NEPA contractor questions. Display boards showing the NEPA process, the general location, the project area boundary, the ore transportation route, the proposed facility details, the project area surface ownership, and the post-mining topography were provided to facilitate conversation.

BLM received a total of 46 comment submittals (e.g., letter, comment form, or email) containing 288 individual comments during the public scoping period. 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 helped to identify the issues related to the Proposed Action (40 Code of Federal Regulations 1501.7). Most of the public comments were related to impacts to surface water resources, air quality, cultural resources/Native American concerns, and mitigation and monitoring. Numerous comments were received in support of the proposed project.

A Public Scoping Comment Summary Report was prepared that provided a detailed table listing each individual comment, its location in the original scoping submittal, the BLM's determination of the comment, and where the comment is addressed in the EIS.

4.1.3 Public Review of the Draft EIS

The Draft EIS will be available for a 45-day public review and comment period from the date the Notice of Availability (NOA) is published in the *Federal Register*. All who provided scoping input will receive a paper copy or CD of the Draft EIS or will have access to the document on BLM's website http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko_field_office.html.

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

Specific NEPA regulations require BLM to coordinate and consult with federal, state, local agencies, and tribes about the potential of the proposed project and alternatives to affect sensitive resources. The BLM initiated coordination and consultation activities with federal, state, and local governments during the scoping process. Consultation between the BLM and federally recognized tribes was initiated on July 30, 2009, and currently is ongoing. Elko County Commissioners and Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) are participating in the EIS as cooperating agencies.

Issues related to agency consultation and/or reviews include mining regulation and reclamation, biological and cultural resources, socioeconomics, and water management. Consultation efforts for cultural resources are focused on potential impacts to important historic and archaeological sites, as well as places of cultural and religious importance to Native Americans. The BLM currently is consulting with the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation regarding potential adverse effects to National Register of Historic Places-eligible sites located in the Hollister Underground Mine project area.

AECOM, BLM's EIS consultant, has engaged in conversation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. As the state agency with jurisdiction and special expertise related to impacts on wildlife, NDOW has agreed to participate as a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS, as previously mentioned. NDOW expressed concerns during scoping about effects to pronghorn and mule deer migration, greater sage-grouse, Pacific chorus frogs, and nongame species.

4.3 Draft EIS Distribution List

Federal Agencies

DOI, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (Office of the Secretary)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Reno)
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, Eastern Nevada Agency
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
USDA Cooperative Extension Service
USDA Forest Service, Ruby Mountain/Jarbridge Ranger Station
USDA Forest Service, Humboldt/Toiyabe National Forest (Elko, Sparks)
USDA Forest Service, Carson Ranger District
USDA Forest Service, Bridgeport Ranger District
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Las Vegas)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region IX (San Francisco)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Reno)

State Agencies

Central Committee of Nevada Grazing Boards
Division of Conservation Districts
Nevada Department of Agriculture (Elko, Reno)
Nevada Department of Business and Industry
Nevada Department of Cultural Resources
Nevada Department of Transportation (Carson City, Elko)
Nevada Department of Wildlife, (Elko, Reno)
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
Nevada Division of Forestry
Nevada Division of Minerals (Carson City, Las Vegas)
Nevada Division of State Lands
Nevada Division of Water Resources
Nevada State Clearing House
Nevada State Division of Agriculture
Nevada State Library and Archives
Nevada Wildlife Federation
Rangeland Resources Commission
State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
State Environmental Commission
State Grazing Boards
State Historic Preservation Office

Elected Officials

Mark Amodei, U.S. House of Representatives
Shelley Berkley, U.S. House of Representatives
Randy Brown, Elko County Commissioner
John Ellison, State Assemblyman, District No. 33
Pete Goicoechea, State Assemblyman, District No. 35

Don Gustavson, State Assemblyman, District No. 32
Joe Heck; U.S. House of Representatives
Dean Heller, U.S. Senate
Harry Reid, U.S. Senate
Dean Rhoads, Rural Nevada Senatorial District
Brian Sandoval; Governor

County and Local Agencies

City of Carlin City Council
City of Elko City Council
City of Elko, Mayor
City of Wells City Council
City of Winnemucca City Council
Elko Chamber of Commerce
Elko County Board of Commissioners
Elko County Manager
Elko County Natural Resource Advisory
Elko County Public Works Department
Elko County School District
Eureka County District Attorney
Eureka County Natural Resources Department
Eureka County School District
Eureka County Board of Commissioners
Humboldt County Board of Commissioners
Humboldt County Planning Department
Humboldt County School District
Lander County Board of Commissioners
Lander County Clerk
Lander County Planning Commission
Mineral County Board of Commissioners
Mineral County Chamber of Commerce
Mineral County Clerk
Mineral County School District
Winnemucca Chamber of Commerce
Winnemucca, Public Administrator

Tribal Organizations

Battle Mountain Band Council
Duckwater Shoshone Tribe
Elko Band Council
Ely Shoshone Tribe
Goshute Business Council
Nevada Indian Commission
Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley
South Fork Band Council

Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone
Wells Band Council
Western Shoshone Committee of Duck Valley
Western Shoshone Committee
Western Shoshone Defense Project
Western Shoshone Descendents of Big Smokey
Yomba Shoshone Tribe

Newspapers and Libraries

Elko Daily Free Press
Great Basin College Library
James Dickenson Library, University of Nevada
Range Magazine

Industry/Business

Al Park Petroleum
Allied Nevada Gold Holdings
Boart Longyear Company
Bamco Exploration
Baroid Drilling Fluids, Inc.
Barrick Gold Exploration, Inc.
Barrick Goldstrike Mines, Inc.
Big G Construction
Boss Tanks
Conagra Beef Company
Ellison Ranching Company
Evolving Gold Corporation
Fronteer Development USA, Inc.
Fronteer Gold
Global Mining and Tunneling
Great Basin Gold Inc
Halliburton Energy Service, Inc.
Hi-Tech Exploration, Ltd.
Jennmar
John Davis Trucking Co. Inc.
Largo Flight, Ltd.
Marigold Mining Company
Meridian Minerals Corporation
Meridian Rossi Corporation
Nevada Trend Exploration
Newcan Inc.
Newmont Mining Corporation
NVEnergy
Parsons Behle & Latimer
Rayrock DBA Cordex Exploration

Rodeo Creek Gold Inc
Sandvik Mining and Construction
Squaw Valley Ranch LLC
Sweeney Enterprises
Tire Factory
Twenty Five Ranch LLC
VEK/Andrus Associates
Western Nevada Supply
White Knight Gold (US), Inc.
Wind Haven Farm

Organizations/Associations

American Horse Protection Association
Animal Welfare Institute
Citizens against Recreation Eviction USA
Friends of Nevada Wilderness
Glendale Ranches
Great Basin Ecology
Great Basin Resource Watch
Hawk Watch International
Humboldt Outfitters, Inc.
Mineral Policy Center (Durango)
Mineral Policy Center (Washington DC)
National Mustang Association
Native American Program Citizens Alert
Natural Resources Defense Council (San Francisco)
Natural Resources Defense Council (Washington DC)
Natural Resources Management Advisory Commission
NE Nevada Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Need More Sheep Company
Nevada Archaeological Association
Nevada Cattlemen's Association
Nevada Commission on Tourism
Nevada High Country Tours
Nevada Mining Association
Nevada Natural Heritage Program
Nevada Outdoor Recreation Association
Nevada Wilderness Project
Nevada Wildlife Federation
Nevada Wool Growers Association
Ormsby Sportsman Club
Public Lands Foundation
Red Rock Audubon Society
Resource Concepts

Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge
 Sierra Club – Toiyabe Chapter
 Sierra Club – Washington DC
 Sustainable Grazing Coalition
 The Nature Conservancy
 The Wilderness Society
 U.S. Post Office
 University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
 University of Nevada, Reno (Department of Range, Wildlife, and Forestry)
 Water Quality Section AFS
 Western Cultural Resource Management
 Western Watersheds Project (Boise)
 Western Watersheds Project (Hailey)
 Wild Horse Commission
 Wild Horse Spirit
 Wilderness Impact Research Foundation
 Wildhorse Observers Association
 Wildlife and Habitat Protection

Individuals

Jim Baumann	Tom Myers	Little Resident
Dan Beitia	Dan Anderson	Lorraine Marshal
Carol Clinton	Don Simmons	Yvonne Powers
Leta Collord	Debbie Bronson	Brian Morris
Ken Conley	Shuai Chen	Telerienne Jensen
Lenny Fiorenzi	Louie Ortega	Julie Webb
Robert Hatch	Kristen Plascencia	Monica Gerry
Andrea Lococo	Jason Moon	Paul Wheelwright
Cindy MacDonald	Steve Konieczki	Lucas Mason
Laurel Marshall	Michael Rispin	Reggie Premo
Carl Pescio	Arlene Lunen	Charlene Chambers
Richard Redfern	Lee Morrison	Dave Pierce
Roger Scholl	Nicole Bourland	Jennifer Roundtree
Carl Slagowski	Winthrop Rowe	Val Sawyer
Jerry Todd	Diana & Elias Galran	
Jason Watson	Gloria Jim	
Anthony Sanchez	Carol Crum	
Deborah Durand		