

## CHAPTER 4

### CONSULTATION, COORDINATION, AND PARTICIPATION

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SUMMARY

Public participation specific to this Final SEIS is summarized in this chapter. The summary indicates how the public has been involved, identifies persons and organizations contacted for feedback, and identifies the process BLM used in accomplishing goals in accordance with 40 CFR 1506.6.

Public involvement in the SEIS 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 the Projects; and (3) ensuring that public needs are understood by the agencies.

Opportunities for public participation in the preparation of this Final SEIS are provided at four specific points:

- **Scoping:** The public was provided a 21-day scoping period to disclose potential issues and concerns associated with the Cumulative Effects of the South Operations Area Project Amendment (SOAPA). Information obtained by the agencies during public scoping was combined with issues identified by the agencies and this forms the scope of the Draft SEIS.
- **Draft SEIS Review:** A 60-day Draft SEIS review period was initiated by publication of Notice of Availability for the Draft SEIS in the Federal Register.

- **Final Supplemental EIS/Record of Decision:** 30 days after publication of a Notice of Availability for the Final Supplemental EIS in the Federal Register, a Record of Decision will be issued.

#### IMPLEMENTATION

The public participation process for the Draft SEIS was comprised of the following four components:

##### I. PUBLIC SCOPING PERIOD AND MEETINGS

BLM filed a notice of intent (NOI) to prepare a Draft SEIS for the South Operations Area Project Amendment to update cumulative effects analysis. The NOI appeared in the Federal Register on March 7, 2007 (Volume 72, No. 44, page 10241). The NOI announced a 21-day public comment period ending March 29, 2007.

Scoping letters were mailed to individuals and organizations announcing the scoping period and describing the cumulative effects analysis process. Issues regarding the cumulative effects analysis identified by BLM also were included in the mailing.

Scoping comments were received from seven individuals and organizations. Concurrent with these actions, BLM issued a news release to local news organizations and radio stations with coverage in the surrounding geographical regions.

## 2. DISTRIBUTION OF DRAFT SEIS

The Draft SEIS was distributed as follows:

- A Notice of Availability was published in the Federal Register on August 31, 2007 specifying dates for the 60-day public comment period which ended October 31, 2007.
- A news release provided to all area media by BLM at the beginning of the 60-day comment period on the Draft SEIS.
- The Draft EIS was distributed to interested parties that responded to a request from BLM Elko District Office during the scoping announcement.
- The Draft SEIS was posted on the BLM website.

## 3. DISTRIBUTION OF FINAL SEIS

The Final SEIS is distributed as follows:

- Notice of Availability is published in the Federal Register;
- Copies of the Final SEIS are sent to addresses on the Elko District Office mailing list;
- The Final SEIS is posted on the BLM website; and
- A news release issued to the same news outlets used for previous project announcements.

## CRITERIA AND METHODS BY WHICH PUBLIC INPUT IS EVALUATED

Comments received by BLM on the Draft SEIS 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 Supplemental EIS. Revisions have been made in the Final SEIS to address substantive comments received during the 60-day public comment period, as appropriate. In addition, the Final SEIS contains a *Response to Comments* section that provides responses to comments BLM received on the Draft SEIS.

## CONSULTATION WITH OTHERS

The following state and federal agencies were consulted during preparation of the SEIS:

- Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Nevada Department of Human Resources
- Nevada State Clearinghouse

## **LIST OF PREPARERS AND REVIEWERS**

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 Air Quality – Mark Dean, Deb McFarlane, John Daniels, Craig Nicholls, Scott Archer  
 Water Resources – Mark Dean  
 Soil – Mark Dean  
 Vegetation – Donna Jewell  
 Terrestrial Wildlife/Special Status Species – Ken Wilkinson  
 Wetlands, Aquatics, Fisheries/Special Status Species – Carol Evans  
 Recreation and Visual Resources – Tamara Hawthorne  
 Grazing Management/Range Resources – Donna Jewell  
 Access and Land Use – Cathie Jensen, Deb McFarlane  
 Cultural Resources – Bryan Hockett  
 Native American Religious Concerns – Gerald Dixon and Bryan Hockett  
 Social and Economic Resources – Deb McFarlane  
 Environmental Justice – Deb McFarlane

### **COOPERATING AGENCY**

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**MAILING LIST**  
**SOUTH OPERATIONS AREA PROJECT AMENDMENT**

This document was mailed to approximately 100 agencies and individuals.