

Proposed Sloan Hills Competitive Mineral Material Sales

Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Public Meeting

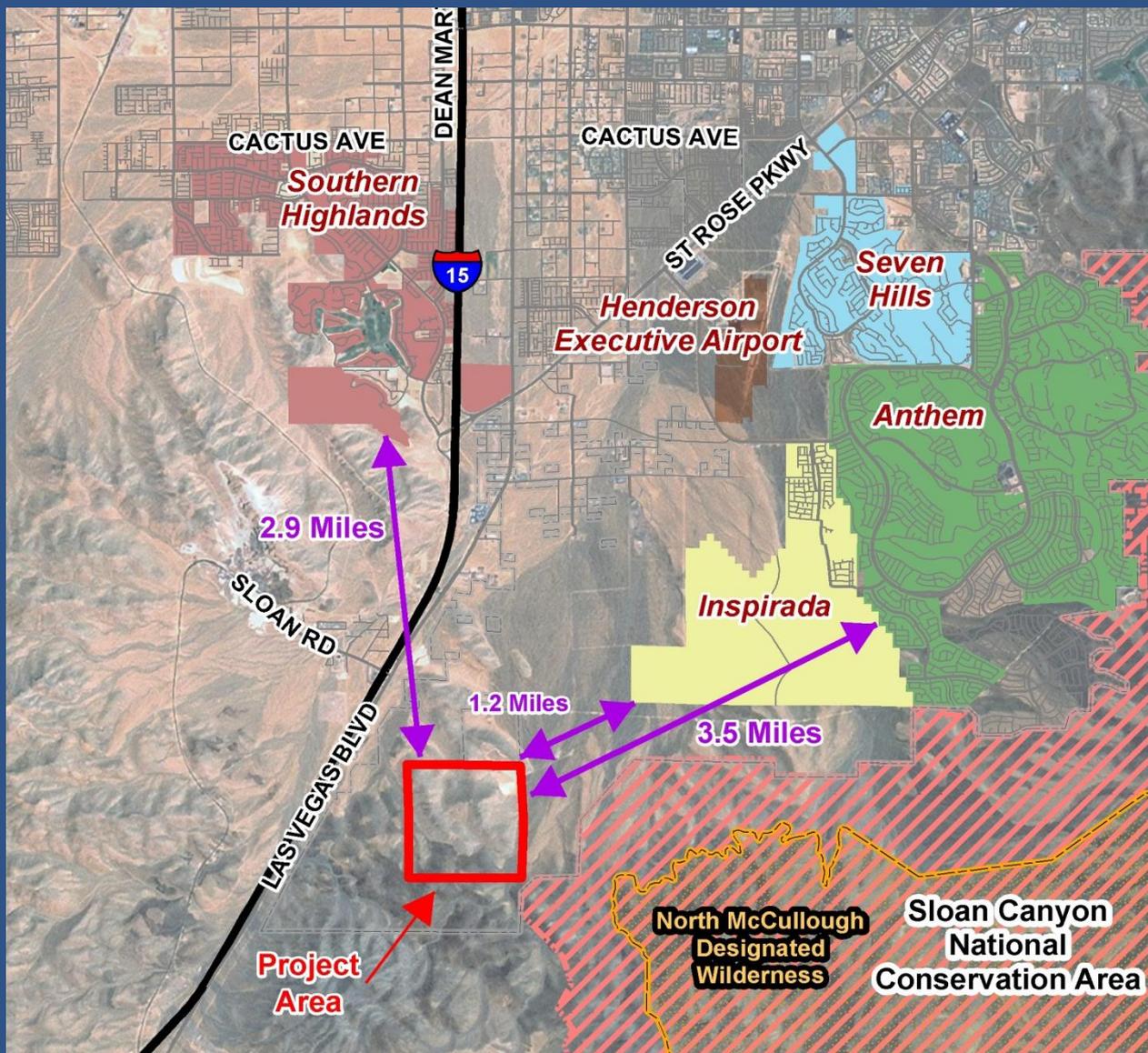


What is the proposed project?

- Competitive sale of mineral materials on a 640 acre site in Sloan Hills.
- Mineral materials mined from the Sloan Hills area would be used to produce construction materials like road base, building pads and concrete.



Where is the project located?



What laws authorize the BLM to conduct this sale?

- The Materials Act of 1947
- Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970
- Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976



Why is the BLM considering this sale?

- Responding to applications submitted by mining companies.
- Directed by the Materials Act and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act to make mineral materials available unless it is detrimental to the public interest to do so.
- Required by settlement agreements to consider applications for the Sloan Hills area.



What is the decision to be made?

- BLM will decide whether or not to issue mineral material sales contracts for the Sloan Hills area.
- If approved, BLM will also decide what terms and conditions should be placed on the contracts.



What activities would occur on the site?

- Drilling and blasting
- Rock crushing and sorting
- Transportation of materials off site

North Site

- 126 million tons
- 30 years

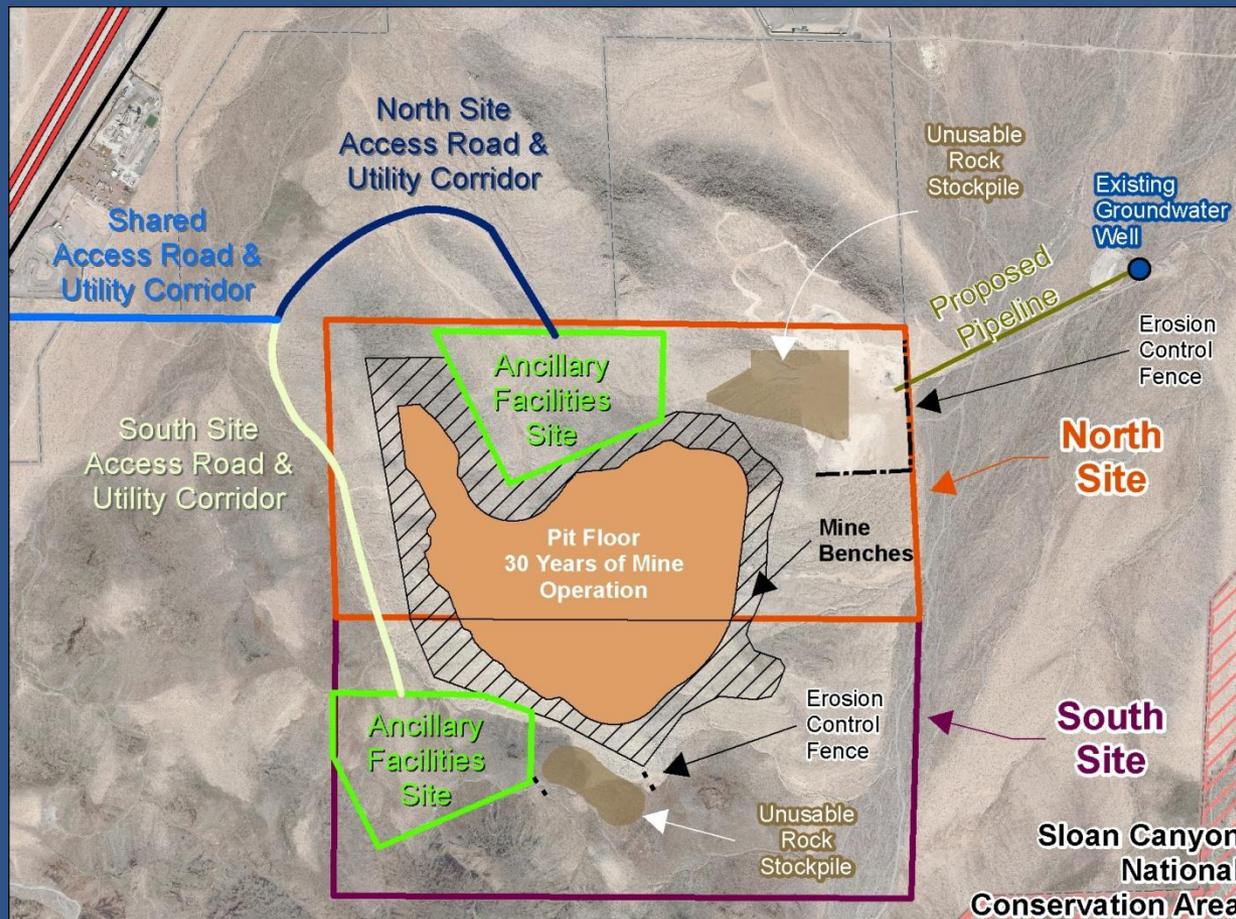
South Site

- 74 million tons
- 20 years



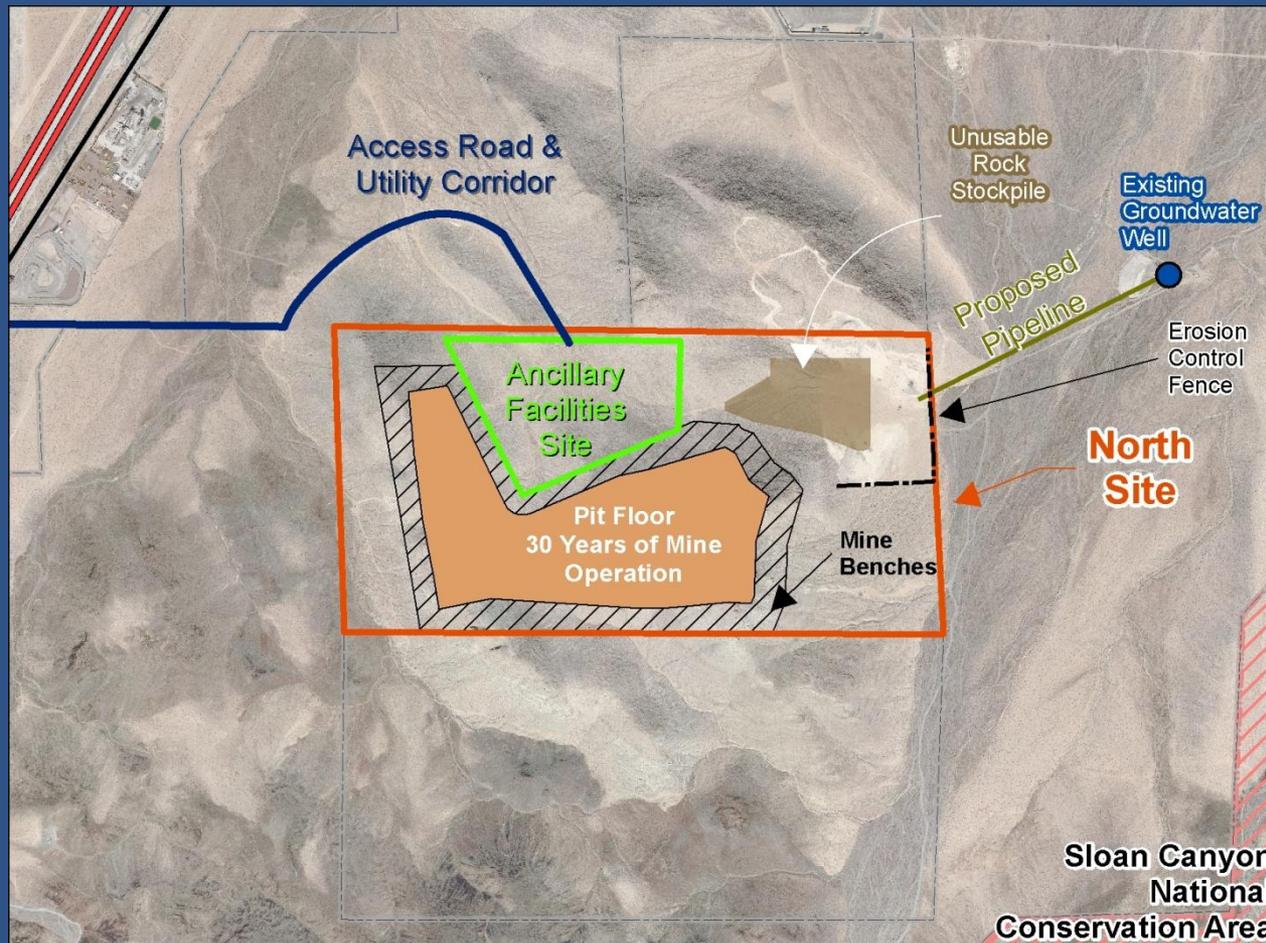
What alternatives are being considered?

- Alternative 1: Sale of two separate mineral material contracts.



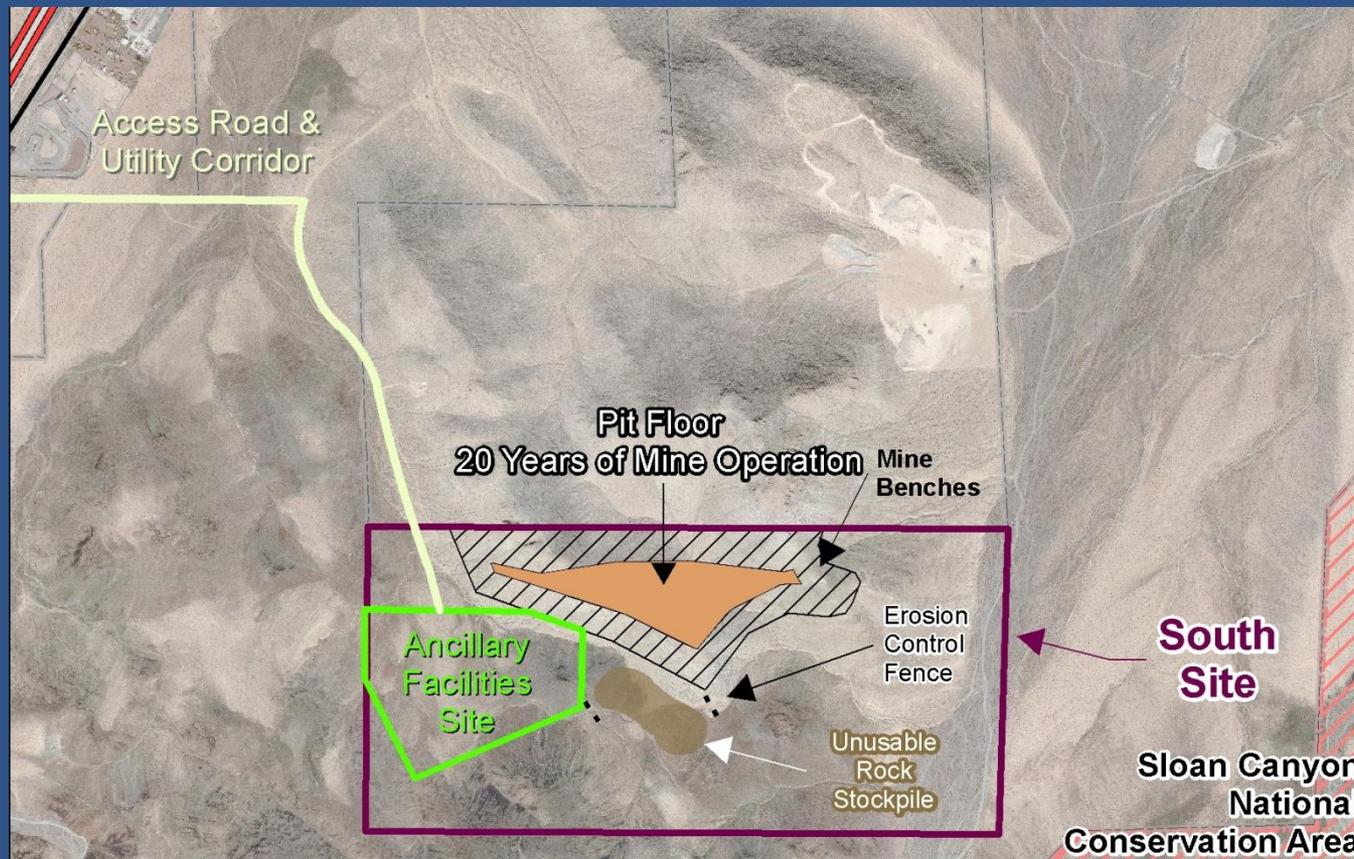
What alternatives are being considered?

- Alternative 2: Sale of a mineral material contract for the North Site only.



What alternatives are being considered?

- Alternative 3: Sale of a mineral material contract for the South Site only.



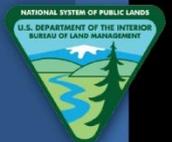
What alternatives are being considered?

- Alternative 4: Single sale of a mineral material contract for the North Site and the South Site.



What alternatives are being considered?

- Alternative 5: No Action Alternative - BLM would deny the request for a sale of mineral materials and no mining would occur in the Sloan Hills.



Why is the BLM not considering other locations?

- Applications received were for the Sloan Hills area.
- Settlement agreements state that BLM must consider the proposed sale in the Sloan Hills area.



Concerns raised during public scoping

- Air quality impacts (e.g., dust/emissions/odors) – EIS pg. 4-4
- Noise impacts – EIS pg. 4-95
- Water supply issues – EIS pg. 4-56
- Visual and lighting impacts – EIS pg. 4-90
- Increased local traffic – EIS pg. 4-105
- Vibrations from blasting – EIS pg. 4-97
- Property value impacts – EIS pg. 4-126
- Impacts to nearby homes, schools, airports, stores, and planned development – EIS pg. 4-77



Additional issues in the EIS

- Impacts on soils, geology, and topography
- Impacts on vegetation and wildlife habitat
- Impacts on desert tortoises
- Impacts on special management areas
- Impacts on recreation
- Cumulative impacts of other actions in the area
- Impacts to cultural resources in the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area
- Potential economic benefits of mining



Thank you!

The public comment period will begin shortly.



How the public comment period will work

- If you wish to make a public comment, please submit a speaker request card.
- You will be called in the order that your speaker request cards were submitted.
- Each person is will have three minutes to make his/her comment.
- You may also speak to a court reporter to make your comment in private.
- Written comments must be postmarked by December 5, 2011 to ensure that they will be considered in the Final EIS.

