



File Code: 2810

Date: July 7, 2009

Dear Interested Party:

The Tonopah Ranger District has received a Plan of Operations from Newmont Mining Corporation to conduct exploratory drilling in the Monitor Range on National Forest System lands in Sections 11, 13 and 24 of T10N, R48E, Nye County, Nevada. The proposed Plan of Operations (POO #04-09-004) is the "Wagon Exploration Project".

Proposed Action: Newmont proposes drilling up to six drill holes in the Wagon project area. Access to the project area will be by the West Stone Cabin/Little Fish Lake Valley road (Forest Service Road 139), then westerly on Forest Service Road 447 approximately 2.5 miles to an existing exploration access road to the project area. In addition to the use of existing roads and overland travel, approximately 4,339-feet of new road construction will be used to access all drill sites. Drilling will be conducted using either a core or reverse circulation drill rig, supported with a water truck, a pipe truck, one booster truck, and an auxiliary air compressor and a portable light generator, along with 4-whl drive pickup trucks for drilling personnel. New roads and all drill pads will be constructed with one D6 or D8 bulldozer or equivalent. Total surface disturbance including drill pads, sumps, and new roads will be approximately 3.9 acres. Reclamation work would consist of plugging all holes to State of Nevada standards and completing seasonal maintenance/reclamation of other newly disturbed areas as necessary. Final reclamation would consist of plugging all holes to State of Nevada standards, filling-in and recontouring all drill pads, mud pits, and new road construction, then raking and seeding with an approved native weed-free seed mixture.

Preliminary Issues and Concerns: No issues or concerns have been identified upon initial review of the project. An archaeological survey and a survey for any Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive plant and animal species (Biological Assessment and Evaluation) will be required.

Preliminary Alternatives: No alternatives to the proposed action, other than the No Action alternative, have been identified at this time.

Most of the area of the proposed project has been classified with a Recreation Opportunity Spectrum of Semi Primitive Non-Motorized and a Visual Quality Objective of Retention. The remainder of the project area has a Recreation Opportunity Spectrum of Semi Primitive Motorized, and a Visual Quality Objective of Partial Retention. The project is located within the Table Mountain East Inventoried Roadless Area.

A general location map is included for your information. Site-specific maps may be considered confidential, as outlined in 36 CFR 228.6. Comments submitted, as well as the names and addresses of those who comment, are considered part of the public record and will be released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Your comments are welcome and encouraged. Please be sure to comment by **August 8, 2009**. Direct comments to: **District Ranger, Tonopah Ranger District, P.O. Box 3940, Tonopah, NV 89049**. You may contact Jim Rigby at the Tonopah Ranger District at 775-482-7887 for any additional information.

Sincerely,

STEVE WILLIAMS
District Ranger



NEWMONT MINING CORPORATION; Wagon Exploration Project

