



**File Code:** 2810

**Date:** August 5, 2009

Dear Interested Party:

The Tonopah Ranger District has received a Plan of Operations from AuEx, Inc. to conduct exploratory drilling in the Monitor Range on National Forest System lands in Sections 25 and 36 of T10N, R48E, and in Section 20, T10N, R49E, Nye County, Nevada. The proposed Plan of Operations (POO #04-09-006) is the "Dry Canyon Exploration Project".

**Proposed Action:** AuEx Inc. proposes drilling four drill holes in the Dry Canyon project area. Access to the project area will be by traveling westward from the Antelope Valley/West Stone Cabin Valley road (FS Road 139) on FS Road 098 approximately 2.5 miles to the project area. In addition to the use of existing roads, approximately 634 feet of new access road, and approximately 2,896 feet of overland travel, will be required to access all drill sites. All drill sites, new road construction and overland travel would occur in an area identified as an inventoried roadless area (IRA). Drilling would be conducted using either a reverse circulation or core drill rig, along with a water truck, pipe truck, booster truck, one auxiliary air compressor, and 4-whl drive pickup trucks. Total surface disturbance including drill pads, sumps, new road construction and overland travel will be approximately 0.8 acres. Reclamation work would consist of plugging all drill holes to State of Nevada standards and completing seasonal maintenance/reclamation of roads and other newly disturbed areas as necessary. Final reclamation would consist of filling-in and recontouring all drill pads, sumps, and new roads to as an original slope as possible, 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 will be required.

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

Part of the proposed project area has been classified with a Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) of Roaded Natural and a Visual Quality Objective (VQO) of Partial Retention/Modification; another part of the area has an ROS of Semi Primitive Motorized and a VQO of Partial Retention; and the remainder of the area of the proposed project has a ROS of Semi Primitive Non-Motorized and a VQO of Retention.

A general location map is included for your information. Site-specific maps may be considered confidential, as outlined in 36CFR 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).

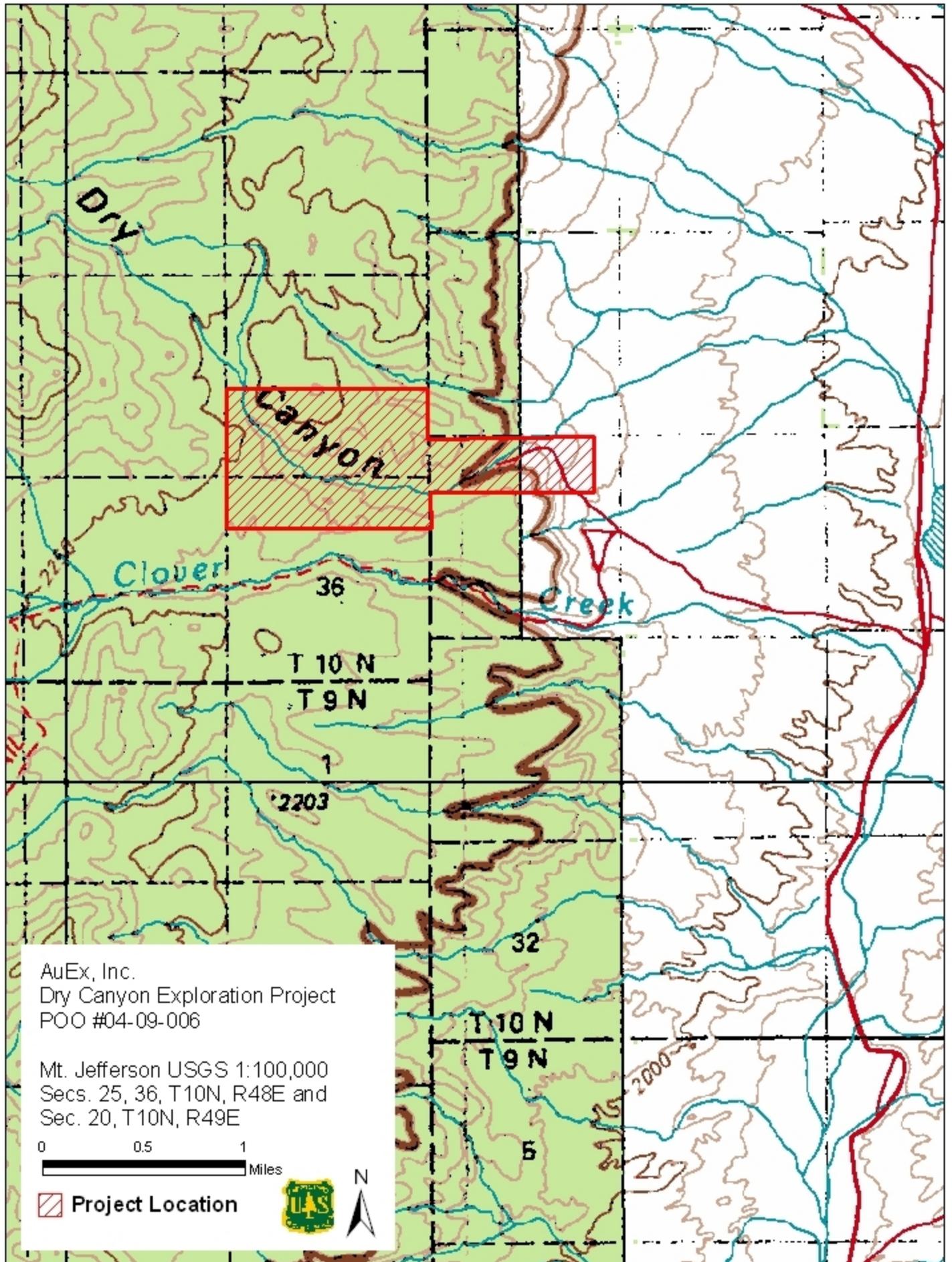
Your comments are welcome and encouraged. Please be sure to comment by **September 7, 2009**. Direct comments to: **District Ranger, Tonopah Ranger District, P.O. Box 3940, Tonopah, NV 89049**. You may contact Jim Rigby at the Tonopah Ranger District at 775-482-7887 for any additional information.

Sincerely,

STEVEN WILLIAMS  
District Ranger

Enclosure: Location Map





AuEx, Inc.  
Dry Canyon Exploration Project  
POO #04-09-006

Mt. Jefferson USGS 1:100,000  
Secs. 25, 36, T10N, R48E and  
Sec. 20, T10N, R49E

0 0.5 1 Miles

Project Location





United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Humboldt-Toiyabe  
National Forest

Tonopah Ranger District  
1400 S. Erie Main Street  
Tonopah, NV 89049-3940

---

**File Code:** 2810

**Date:** August 5, 2009

Dear Interested Party:

The Tonopah Ranger District has received a Plan of Operations from AuEx, Inc. to conduct exploratory drilling in the Monitor Range on National Forest System lands in Section 11, T10N, R48E, and in Sections 35 and 36, T11N, R48E, Nye County, Nevada. The proposed Plan of Operations (POO #04-09-007) is the "Green Monster Exploration Project".

**Proposed Action:** AuEx Inc. proposes drilling 14 drill holes in the Dry Canyon project area. Access to the project area will be by traveling westward from the Antelope Valley/West Stone Cabin Valley road (FS Road 139) on FS Road 447 approximately four miles to the project area. A staging area will be located within Section 5, T10N, R49E, approximately two miles east of the project area and adjacent to FS Road 447. In addition to the use of existing roads, approximately 3,661 feet of new road construction and reopened existing drill access road, and approximately 944 feet of overland travel, will be required to access all drill sites. Thirteen of the 14 drill sites, all new road construction and overland travel would occur in an area identified as an inventoried roadless area (IRA). Drilling would be conducted using a reverse circulation track-mounted, or equivalent, drill rig, along with a water truck, pipe truck, booster truck, one auxiliary air compressor, and 4-whl drive pickup trucks. Total surface disturbance including drill pads, sumps, new and reopened road construction and overland travel will be approximately 2.25 acres. Reclamation work would consist of plugging all drill holes to State of Nevada standards and completing seasonal maintenance/reclamation of roads and other newly disturbed areas as necessary. Final reclamation would consist of filling-in and recontouring all drill pads, sumps, and new roads to as an original slope as possible, 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 will be required.

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

The proposed project area has been classified with a Recreation Opportunity Spectrum of Semi Primitive Motorized and a Visual Quality Objective of Partial Retention. Roadless issues are involved.

A general location map is included for your information. Site-specific maps may be considered confidential, as outlined in 36CFR 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).

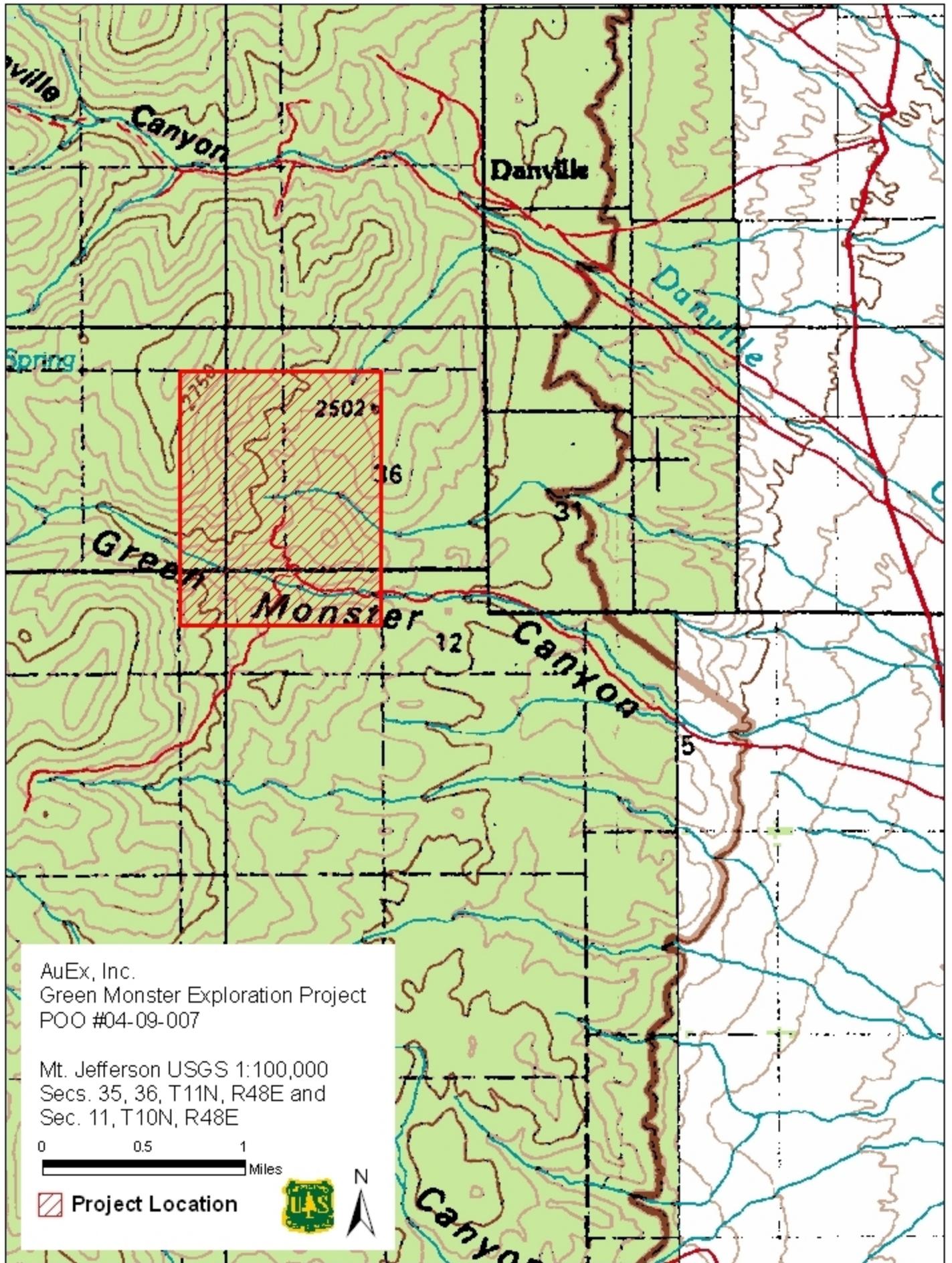
Your comments are welcome and encouraged. Please be sure to comment by **September 7, 2009**. Direct comments to: **District Ranger, Tonopah Ranger District, P.O. Box 3940, Tonopah, NV 89049**. You may contact Jim Rigby at the Tonopah Ranger District at 775-482-7887 for any additional information.

Sincerely,

STEVEN WILLIAMS  
District Ranger

Enclosure: Location Map





AuEx, Inc.  
Green Monster Exploration Project  
POO #04-09-007

Mt. Jefferson USGS 1:100,000  
Secs. 35, 36, T11N, R48E and  
Sec. 11, T10N, R48E