



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Winnemucca District Office
Humboldt River Field Office
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In Reply Refer to:
N-086342
3809/1792 (NVW0100.04)

RECEIVED

AUG 17 2009

AUG 13 2009

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
BUDGET AND PLANNING DIVISION

Dear Interested Public:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Winnemucca District Office (WDO), Humboldt River Field Office (HRFO) is seeking public input as it initiates an environmental analysis process for Newmont Mining Corporation's (NMC's) Sandman Exploration Project Plan of Operations (Plan) (BLM record N-086324). The proposed action is to expand notice-level and state reclamation permit activities located about 14 miles west to northwest of Winnemucca, Nevada. Site specific and general vicinity maps of the project area are enclosed.

NMC proposes to expand the existing exploration activities to include an additional 441.2 acres of surface disturbance, for a total disturbance of 500 acres, divided approximately evenly between public lands and private lands. The Plan boundary encompasses lands of the National System of Public Lands (public lands) administered by the BLM and private lands in part or all of Township 37 North, Range 35 East (T37N, R35E), sections 11-15, 22-26, and 36, T37N, R36E, sections 7, 18-20, 22, and 27-33, T36N, R35E, sections 12, 23, and 24, and T36N, R36E, sections 4-9, 13, 17-24, 26, 27, 29, and 30, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian, Humboldt County, Nevada (Project Area).

NMC is presently working under nine notices filed with the BLM HRFO. A notice is an exploration project disturbing less than five acres of public land, managed under 43 CFR 3809. NMC is also conducting State of Nevada permitted exploration on private and public lands within the Project Area under Permits for Reclamation (PFR) under Nevada Administrative Code 445, which would be combined into one PFR under the Sandman Plan of Operations and revised Permit for Reclamation, collectively known as the Plan. The Plan was submitted in September 2008 to the BLM and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation (BMRR) in accordance with 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 3809 and existing interagency policies. Finally, NMC is conducting exploration activities on other privately owned lands within the Project Area that do not create sufficient surface disturbance to require a permit from the BMRR. NMC currently has approximately 58.8 acres of approved surface disturbance under the Notices and on private land within the Project Area, as depicted on the enclosed maps.

In accordance with Council on Environmental Quality Regulations at 40 CFR 1500, for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the analysis will disclose the environmental impacts expected to occur should the project be

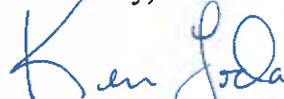
implemented. The BLM is seeking your input in identifying issues and concerns or applicable knowledge to assist us with the NEPA process.

The public is invited to submit comments on the proposal through close of business September 14, 2009. Please send written comments to Mr. Ken Loda, project lead, at the above address or by e-mail to NV_WFO_Webmail@blm.gov with "Sandman Exploration Project (Loda)" in the subject line. This letter and map are also available on our NEPA webpage at the following site: www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo/blm_information/nepa0.html. In addition, a copy of NMC's Plan is available for review at the WDO during regular business hours for 30 days from the date of this letter.

Public comments submitted for this project, including names and addresses of commentors, will be available for public review at the WDO during regular business hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

If you have any questions, please contact Ken Loda by telephone at (775) 623-1539 or by mail or in person at the above address.

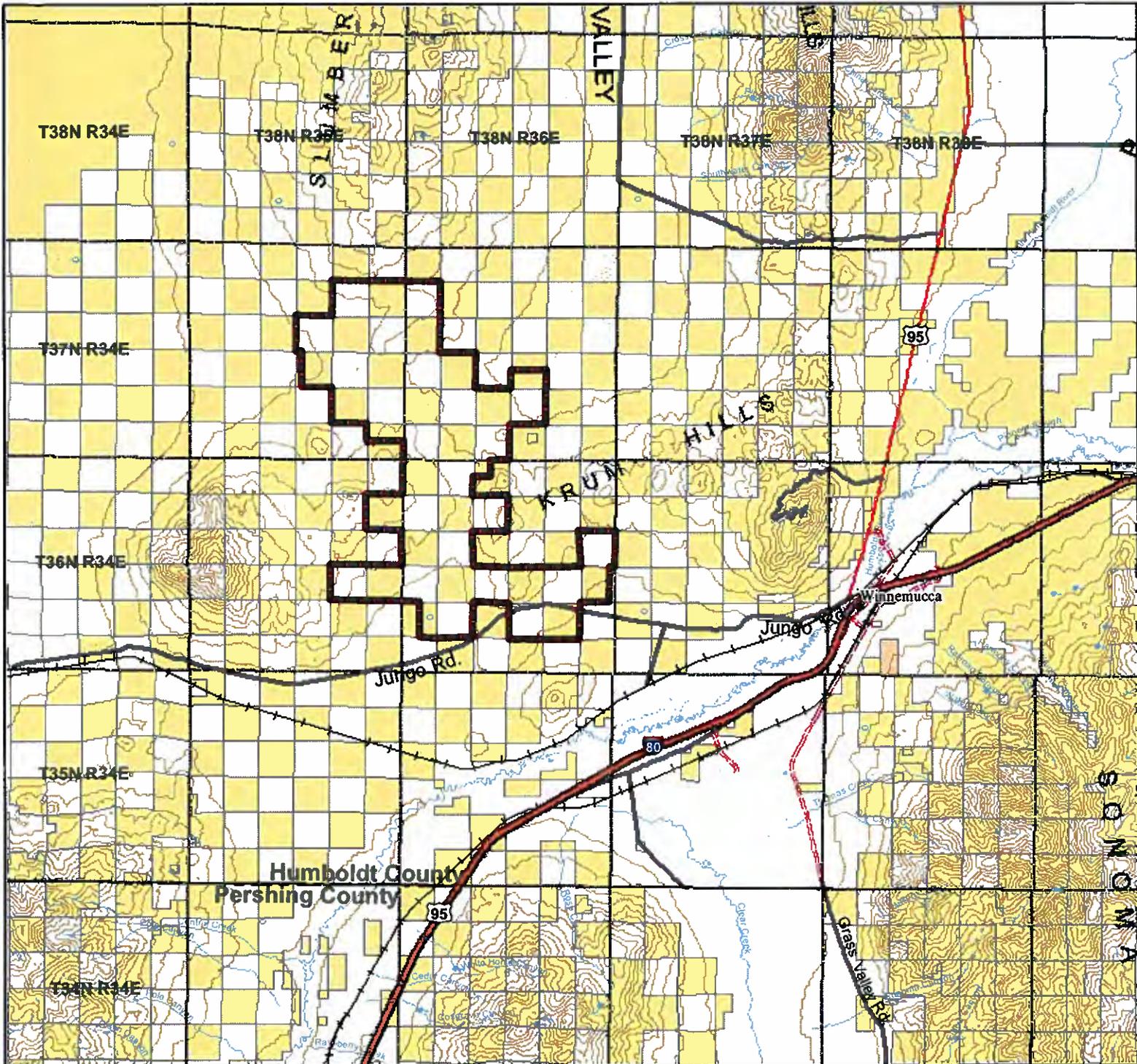
Sincerely,



for

Robert J. Edwards
Field Manager
Humboldt River Field Office

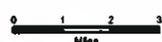
enclosures



NEWMONT SANDMAN EXPLORATION PROJECT



United States Department of the Interior
 Bureau of Land Management
 Winnemucca District Office
 Humboldt River Field Office
 5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd.
 Winnemucca, NV 89445



CI - 2009
 July, 2009

Explanation

- City
- Well
- ⊙ Spring
- ~ Stream/creek
- ≡ Interstate
- ≡ US Highway
- ≡ State Route
- ≡ County Road
- ≡ Railroads

- ▭ Project/Plan Boundary
- ▭ Lake/Reservoir
- ▭ Playa
- ▭ Township

Land Status

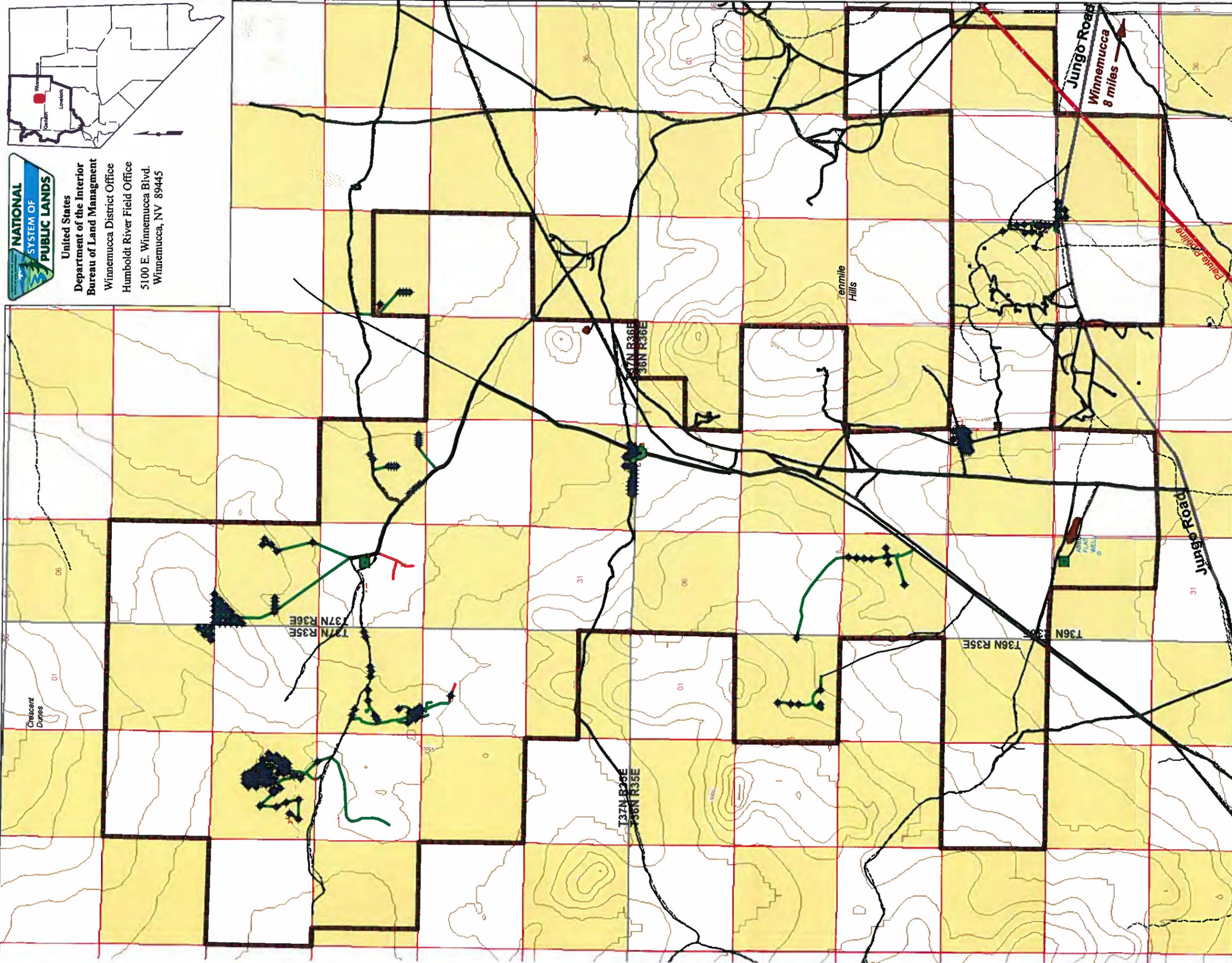
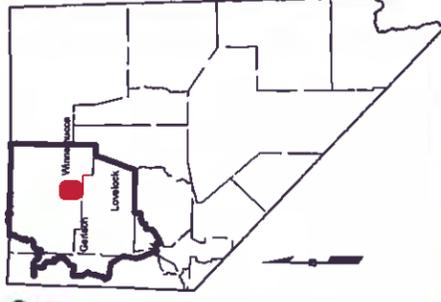
- ▭ Bureau of Indian Affairs
- ▭ Bureau of Land Management
- ▭ Nevada State
- ▭ Private



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.



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NEWMONT SANDMAN EXPLORATION PROJECT

Project/Plan Boundary

Newmont proposes 441.2 acres of phased exploration divided approximately evenly between public and private lands within the project/plan boundary.

Explanation

- Existing Drill Sites
- Existing Test Pits
- Existing Staging Area/Surface Occupancy
- Existing Water Wells
- Existing Monitoring Wells
- Existing Surface Disturbance
- Existing Gravel Pits

- Newmont Existing Constructed Roads
- Main Project Access Road
- Newmont Existing Overland Travel
- Pipeline
- Existing Pre-1981 Roads
- County Road
- Misc. 2-Track

Land Status

- Bureau of Land Management
- Private

0 0.5 1 2 3 Miles CI = 100ft