United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Winnemucca District Office
Humboldt River Field Office
5100 East Winnemucca Boulevard
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445-2921
Phone: (775) 623-1500 Fax: (775) 623-1503
Email: NV_WFO_Webmail@blm.gov
www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo.html

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

In Reply Refer to:
3809/1792
N-83627
(NV01032)

OCT 2 2 2009

Dear Interested Public:

The Bureau of Land Management, Winnemucca District Office, Humboldt River Field Office (HRFO) is seeking public input as it initiates an environmental analysis process for the Newmont Mining Company (Newmont) plan to expand the existing Vista Pit at their existing Twin Creeks Mine. The Twin Creeks Mine is approximately thirty-five miles northeast of Winnemucca in Humboldt County, Nevada (Township 38 North, Range 43 East, sections 4, 5, 9, 15; Township 39 North, Range 43 East, sections 3-10, 15-22, 27-33; Township 39 North, Range 42 East, sections 12, 13, 24, 25, 36; and Township 40 North, Range 43 East, sections 31 and 32). A map is enclosed.

Newmont's existing plan of operations boundary is approximately 20,000 acres in size (12,160 acres of public land). An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was completed in 1996 that analyzed the entire mine, including the Vista Pit and areas to be disturbed under this expansion. Included in that EIS analysis was mine dewatering up to 12,300 gallons per minute and waste rock (including potential acid generating rock) handling and storage. The current proposal includes expanding the Vista Pit, expanding one waste rock facility and expansion of a heap leach facility. In addition, the proposal includes a proposed change in heap leach pad closure from rinsing to use of an evapo-transpiration cover.

The total surface disturbance for this expansion would be up to 580 acres of combined public (223 acres) and private (357 acres) surface disturbance within the existing plan boundary and on ground already disturbed with a haul road, portion of a heap leach and other ancillary features

Proposed activities include:

- Expansion of the Vista Pit;
- Moving existing facilities (including access roads, haul roads, and portion of a heap leach) to accommodate the larger pit;
- Continued expansion of one waste rock storage areas and in-pit backfill (including potential acid generating rock);
- Pit dewatering at a rate of up to 9,500 gallons per minute (approximate);
- Expansion of a heap leach pad facility; and
- Evapo-transpiration cover on heap leach pads.

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 HRFO, will be preparing an environmental analysis of the proposed project. This analysis will disclose the environmental impacts expected to occur should the project be implemented. The HRFO 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 November 4, 2009. Please send written comments to Mr. Fred Holzel, project lead, at the HRFO address or e-mail NV_WFO_Webmail@blm.gov with "Vista Pit Expansion Project (Holzel)" in the subject line. This letter and map are also available on our NEPA webpage at www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo/blm_information/nepa0.html. In addition, a copy of the Twin Creek Mine plan of operations amendment is available for review at the Winnemucca District Office during regular business hours for 30 days from the date of this letter.

Public comments submitted for this project, including names and addresses of commenters, will be available for public review at the Winnemucca District Office 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

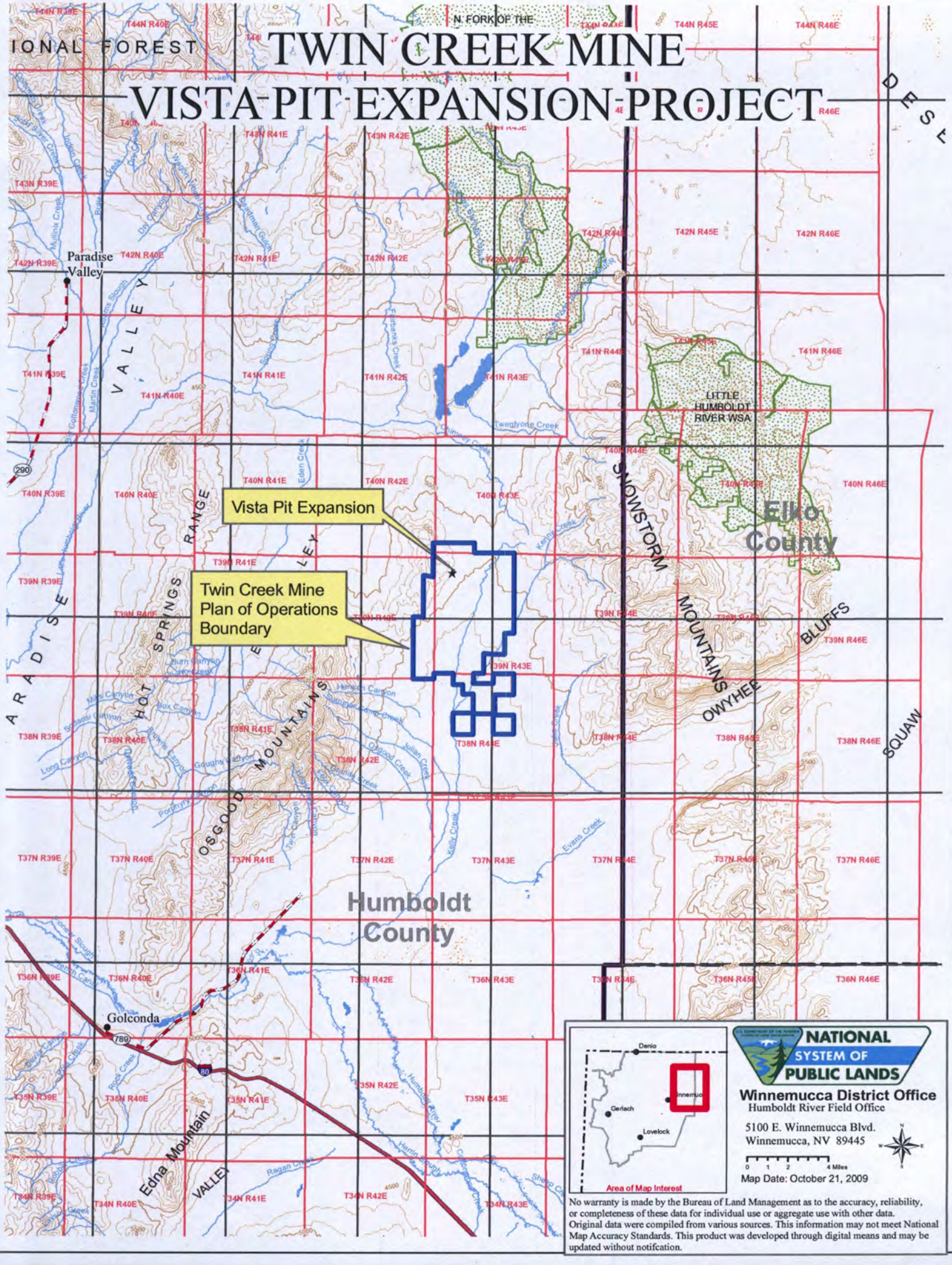
ask us in your comment to withhold personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

If you have any questions, please contact Fred R. Holzel at (775) 623-1528 or at the above address.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Johnson
Field Manager
Humboldt River Field Office

Enclosure


IONAL FOREST
N. FORK OF THE
TWIN CREEK MINE
VISTA PIT EXPANSION PROJECT
Paradise Valley
PARADISE VALLEY
HOT SPRINGS RANGE
OSGOOD MOUNTAINS
SNOWSTORM MOUNTAINS
OWYHEE BLUFFS
SQUAW
Edna Mountain
VALLEY
LITTLE HUMBOLDT RIVER WSA
Elko County
Humboldt County
Vista Pit Expansion
Twin Creek Mine Plan of Operations Boundary
Golconda
Denio
Winnemucca
Gerlach
Lovelock
Area of Map Interest
NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC LANDS
Winnemucca District Office
Humboldt River Field Office
5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd.
Winnemucca, NV 89445
0 1 2 4 Miles
Map Date: October 21, 2009
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