



File Code: 1950

Date: February 17, 2010

Dear Interested Party:

The Mountain City Ranger District has received a proposal from Gateway Gold (USA) Corporation for continued minerals exploration at its Big Springs Project. Referred to as the "Big Springs Project 2010 Exploration", this project is located at the Big Springs Mine Site in Elko County, Nevada. This project is a continuation of drilling completed between 2003 and 2006.

The project is located in the headwaters of the North Fork Humboldt River and is approximately 60 miles north of the town of Elko, Nevada. The legal description for the project is Sections 1, 2 11, and 12, T.42N, R.53E, Mount Diablo Meridian (see enclosed location map).

Gateway is proposing to drill up to 50 drill holes from a maximum of 50 drill sites. Drilling will be done using existing roads. Each drill site requires building a drill pad and associated sump(s) to control drill effluent. Maximum disturbance on National Forest System lands from the drill site construction would be 7.5 acres.

All disturbances require backfilling of sumps, proper drill hole abandonment per State of Nevada regulations, recontouring of drill sites to original slope, and seeding all disturbed ground with approved native weed-free seed mixes.

The Mountain City Ranger District is conducting an environmental analysis for this project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). As part of this analysis the district is inviting public scoping comments on this project. Based on our experience with previous projects in this area, our concerns for this proposed project include potential effects to: riparian areas, ground water flows, water quality, vegetation, fisheries, and wildlife species and habitat.

Your written comments, concerns, and suggestions should be sent to me, Tom Montoya, at the above address on the letterhead. Comments can also be sent via fax to the following: 775-778-6167 or by email to: comments-intermtn-humboldt-toiyabe-mtncity@fs.fed.us. Please use the term "Big Springs 2010" in the subject line of your email. To be most effective, the Forest Service should receive comments no later than **March 20, 2010**.

If requested, a copy of all comments provided in response to this letter will be made available to the public. This includes names, addresses and any other info provided with your comments.



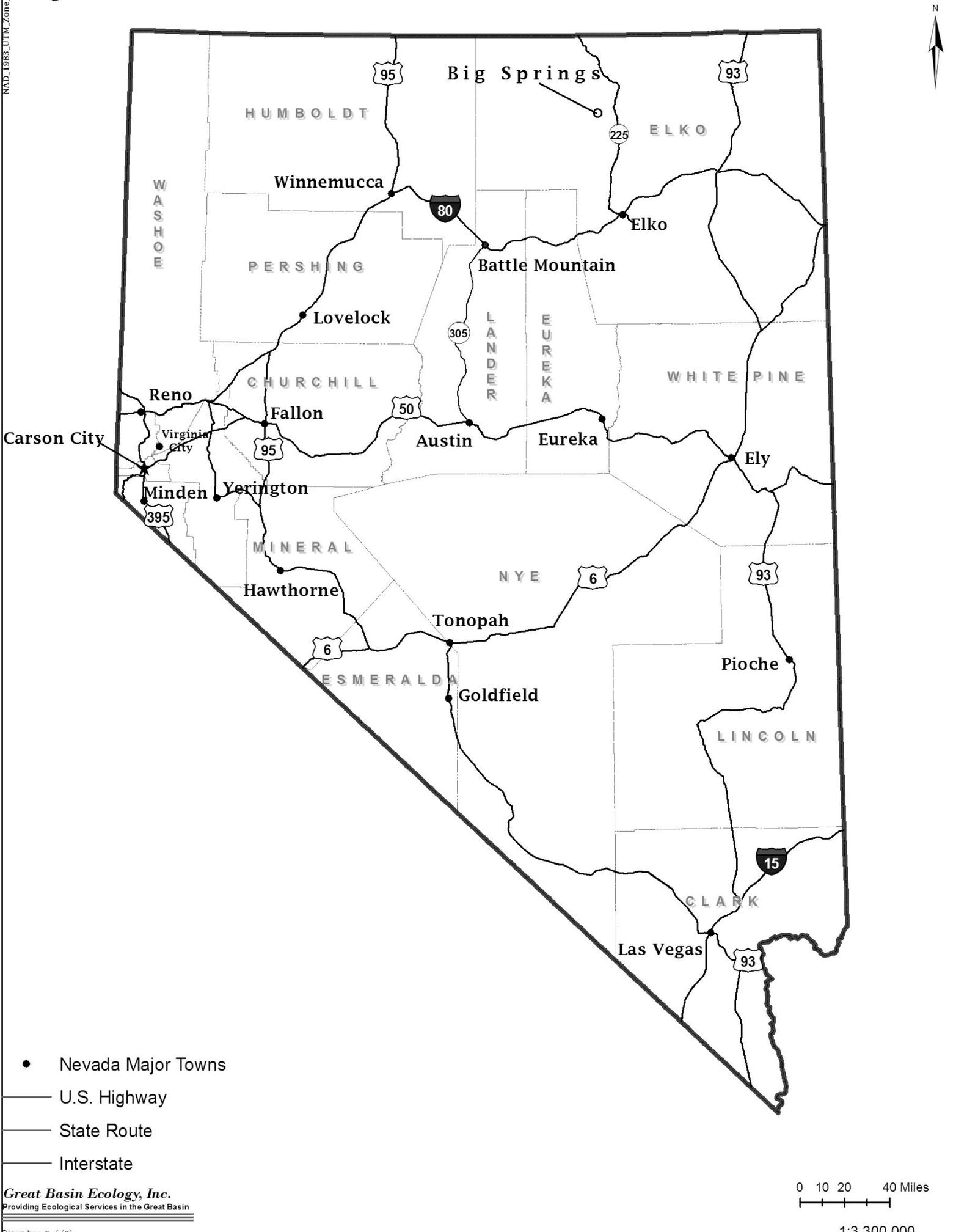
We are also asking that you inform us of whether or not you wish to remain on the mailing list for this project. If we do not hear from you regarding your interest we may remove your name from the project mailing list. For more information or questions, please contact Doug Clarke at (775) 778-6127. Thank you for your interest in the management of your national forests.

Sincerely,

/s/ Thomas A. Montoya
THOMAS A. MONTOYA
District Ranger

Enclosure

Figure : 1



- Nevada Major Towns
- U.S. Highway
- State Route
- Interstate

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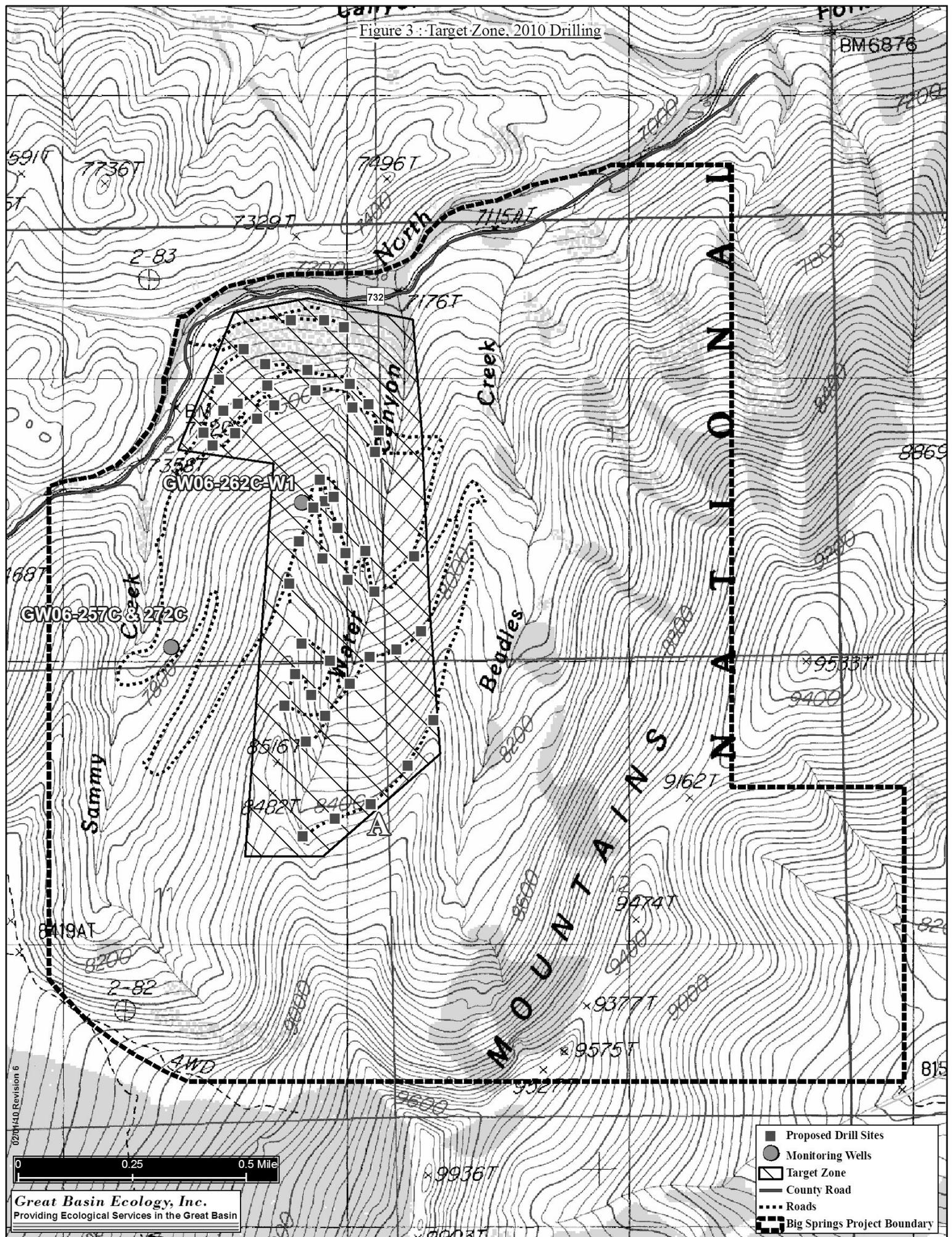
0 10 20 40 Miles

1:3,300,000

Drawn by: *Rachel Olson*

NAD_1983_UTM_Zone_11N

Figure 3: Target Zone, 2010 Drilling



02/14/10 Revision 6

0 0.25 0.5 Mile

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- Proposed Drill Sites
- Monitoring Wells
- ▭ Target Zone
- ▬ County Road
- ⋯ Roads
- ⊞ Big Springs Project Boundary