



**File Code:** 1950

**Date:** April 20, 2010

Dear Interested Party:

The Mountain City Ranger District invites your comments and concerns regarding a mineral exploration project on National Forest System lands in Elko County. The Island Mountain Project is located about fifteen (15) miles east - northeast of Wildhorse Reservoir, near Gold Creek, Elko County, Nevada. It is within the Poorman Creek and Coleman Canyon drainage and the legal description is T.44N., R.55E., Sections 2 and 11, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (MDB&M). A general location map is enclosed for your information.

The proposed project is for exploration drilling of a maximum of 56 drill holes from 48 drill sites. Access to the project area is by existing roads. Access to each drill site will either be by existing roads or by cross-country travel routes. The project is proposed to begin in the summer of 2010 and would be completed within one year. Appropriate environmental protection measures will be used during the project to minimize resource impacts and comply with applicable laws and regulations. All project disturbances would be reclaimed at the end of the project. Reclamation measures would include plugging all drill holes to state standards, re-contouring all ground disturbances and removing all equipment.

The Forest Service will conduct an environmental analysis on this project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). As part of this analysis, we invite you to comment on the project at this time.

Based on our experience with exploration, initial concerns for this proposed project may include:

- The effects on riparian areas, water quality, and water quantity.
- Impacts on wildlife species and wildlife habitat.
- Impacts on threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant species.
- Impacts to other National Forest System land users including, but not limited to livestock permittees and recreationists.
- Impacts to heritage resources.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties. Regulations (36 CFR part 800) concerning protection and preservation of historic properties give the public, local governments, and other entities the opportunity to participate in the review and evaluation of effects to cultural sites.



Your written comments and concerns should be sent to Doug Clarke, Project Coordinator, at the above address or emailed to:

[comments-intermtn-humboldt-toiyabe-mtn-city@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-intermtn-humboldt-toiyabe-mtn-city@fs.fed.us)

Please include the subject heading of "Island Mountain" in your e-mail.

Comments may also be faxed to the following number: 775-778-6167. All comments provided in response to this letter become part of the project record and will be made available to the public if requested under the Freedom of Information Act. This includes names, addresses and any other information provided with the comments.

In order to be most helpful, the Forest Service requests your comments are sent to us by May 26, 2010. We also ask 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 you from the project mailing list.

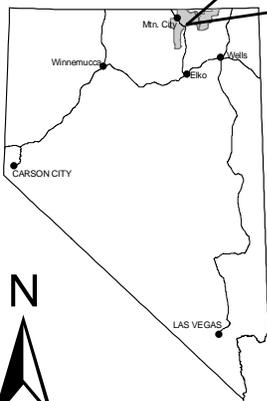
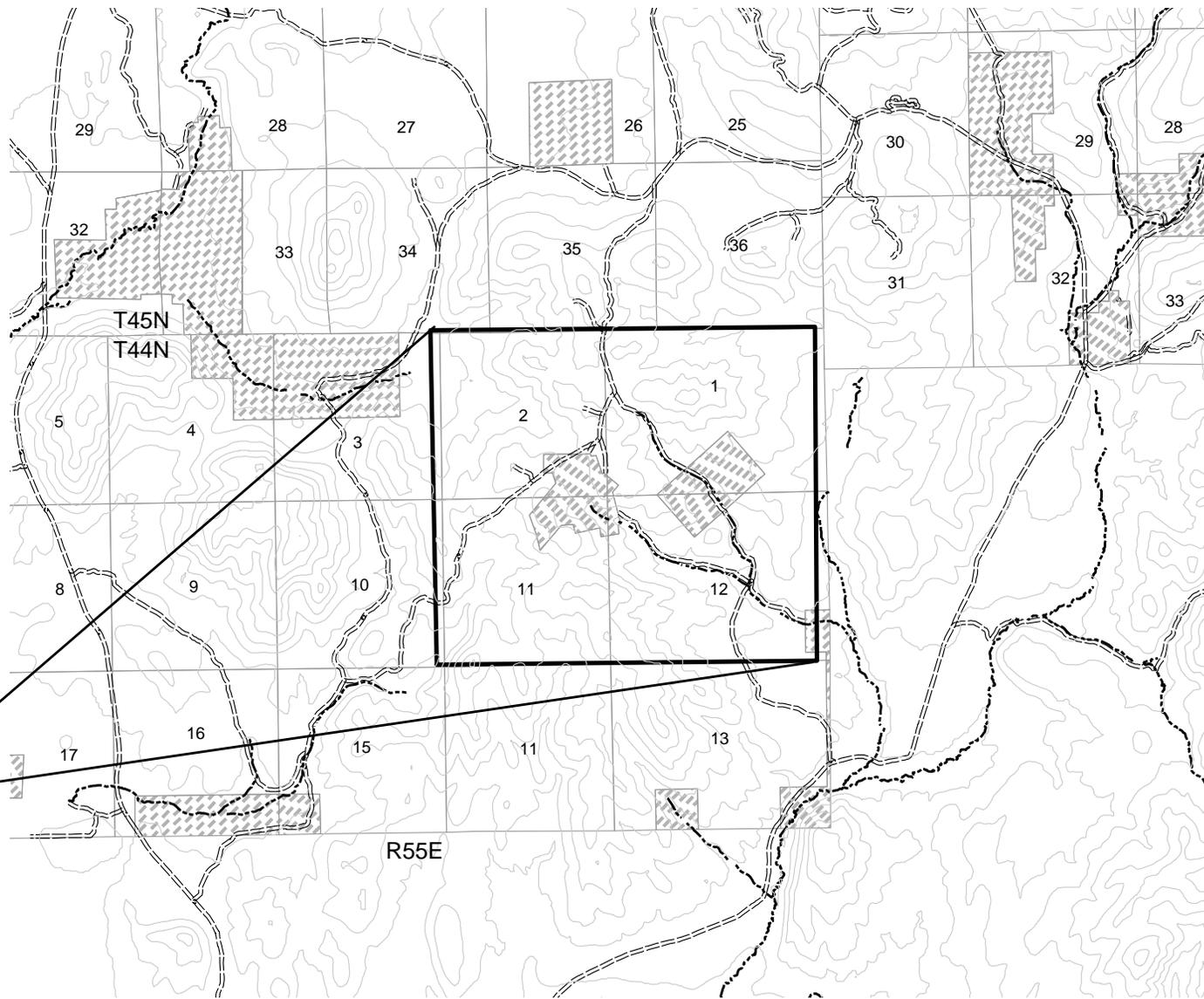
For more information on this project, please contact Doug Clarke, Project coordinator, at (775) 778-6127. Thank you for your interest in the management of your national forests

Sincerely,

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

Enclosure

# Island Mountain Project Area General Location Map



J.E.M.  
4/2010

Scale = 1:63,360

This GIS product was compiled from various sources and may be corrected, updated, modified, or replaced at any time. For more information contact: Elko Zone Office, Elko, Nevada (775) 738-5171.

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