



# United States Department of the Interior



## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Elko District Office

3900 Idaho Street

Elko, Nevada 89801

[http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko\\_field\\_office.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko_field_office.html)

In Reply Refer To:  
1793(NVE0200)  
N-76802

APR 28 2010

Dear Interested Party:

The Elko Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received Rodeo Creek Gold Inc.'s proposal for the Hollister Underground Mine Project Amendment to the Plan of Operations. The Hollister Underground Mine Project is located at the existing Ivanhoe/Hollister Mine site. This project is located approximately 47 miles northwest of Elko, 38 miles northeast of Battle Mountain, and 64 miles east to northeast of Winnemucca, Nevada in Elko County on public lands administered by the BLM. Enclosed is the general location map.

The proposed amendment would expand Rodeo Creek Gold Inc's existing underground exploration activities into a full-scale underground mining operation. Most of the necessary infrastructure to support full-scale mining was authorized and built in conjunction with the underground exploration activities. Currently, the project has created 66 acres of approved surface disturbance on public lands, of which approximately 75 percent of the existing facilities are located on previously disturbed ground within an existing open pit mine. Enclosed is a fact sheet with a brief description of the proposed action.

The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the process for developing the EIS. At present, the BLM has identified the following preliminary issues: cultural resources, Native American Religious concerns, hydrology, and noise. Federal, state, and local agencies, along with other stakeholders that may be interested or affected by the BLM's decision on this project are invited to participate in the scoping process. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Written comments should be submitted by close of business on May 19, 2010 or no later than 15 days after the last public meeting which will be held on May 12, 2010 and sent to: Hollister Underground Mine Project Coordinator, Bureau of Land Management, 3900 East Idaho Street, Elko, NV 89801-4611. Comments will be used to guide the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement, which will analyze the proposed action for potential impacts and address issues and concerns. Questions concerning this project should be addressed to Janice Stadelman at the above address, by phone at (775) 753-0346, or email: [Hollister\\_EIS@blm.gov](mailto:Hollister_EIS@blm.gov).

Sincerely,

*Kathryn W. Full acting*

David Overcast, Manager  
Tuscarora Field Office

Enclosures: As stated above.

# Rodeo Creek Gold Inc. Hollister Underground Mine

## PROPOSED ACTION

Rodeo Creek Gold Inc. (RCG) proposes to construct and operate the Hollister Underground Mine Project. The proposed project would include expansion of existing underground exploration activities to a full-scale producing underground gold and silver mine, including the development of new facilities. The proposed project is located in the northern end of the Carlin Trend, within Elko County, Nevada, approximately 47 miles northwest of Elko.

RCG, a wholly owned subsidiary of Great Basin Gold LTD, submitted an Amendment to the Plan of Operations (PoO) (NVN-076802) for the proposed Hollister Underground Mine Project in March 2008, to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Elko District Office in compliance with 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 3809. A revised PoO was submitted in June 2009 based on BLM comments on the original PoO and project updates. The proposed project would utilize some of the existing support facilities at the mine site. If approved, the anticipated mine life would be approximately 20 years, followed by an estimated 4 years of site closure and reclamation activities. To the extent possible, reclamation would occur concurrently with mine operations. The proposed project would include the following key components:

- Continue surface & underground exploration to further define the ore body and to target additional mineralized zones. Surface drilling is currently authorized under three separate approvals: two notices and one exploration plan.
- Installation of the Hatter Production Shaft, a vertical production shaft to include a hoist house and headframe located east of existing facilities in an area of previous disturbance, or an access ramp.
- Temporary storage of ore on either a lined or concrete pad, prior to it being shipped offsite for processing, to be located either on the existing waste rock storage facility (WRSF) or at the production shaft.
- Upgrade of the Ivanhoe Road for safety purposes, ore haulage, reduction of sediment to local streams, and to reduce dust generation.

- Upgrade of the Mud Springs Road to include widening, gravel placement, stream crossings, and culvert installations.
- Transportation of ore to an off-site ore-processing facility.
- Construction of a new office, dry, and warehouse facilities in an area of previous disturbance outside of the East Pit.
- Construction of a short spur road on the west side of the East Pit to allow for better traffic control within the East Pit.
- Construction of a larger maintenance shop in the East Pit.
- Installation of a truck scale near the new mine office complex outside of the East Pit.
- Installation of a new 10,000-gal potable water tank above new mine office complex and associated piping.
- Installation of a new 35,000-gal fire-water storage tank above new mine office complex and associated piping.
- Installation of a new sewage system to include a 10,000-gal septic tank, dosing tanks and a leach field.
- Construction of a 200-ft stormwater ditch along the main access road.
- Construction of an engineered National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) outfall to Little Antelope Creek.
- Construction of a new 14-mile long 120 kV electric powerline.
- Construction of a new electric substation on private land.
- Mine dewatering up to a maximum of 1500 gpm.
- The core project area for the EIS includes a polygon delineated to include surface exploration areas and the proposed project's disturbance except the analysis corridor (see figure on reverse).
- The analysis corridor delineates the study area for the powerline, Little Antelope Creek Road, and Mud Springs Road.

**Core Project Area = 8180 acres**

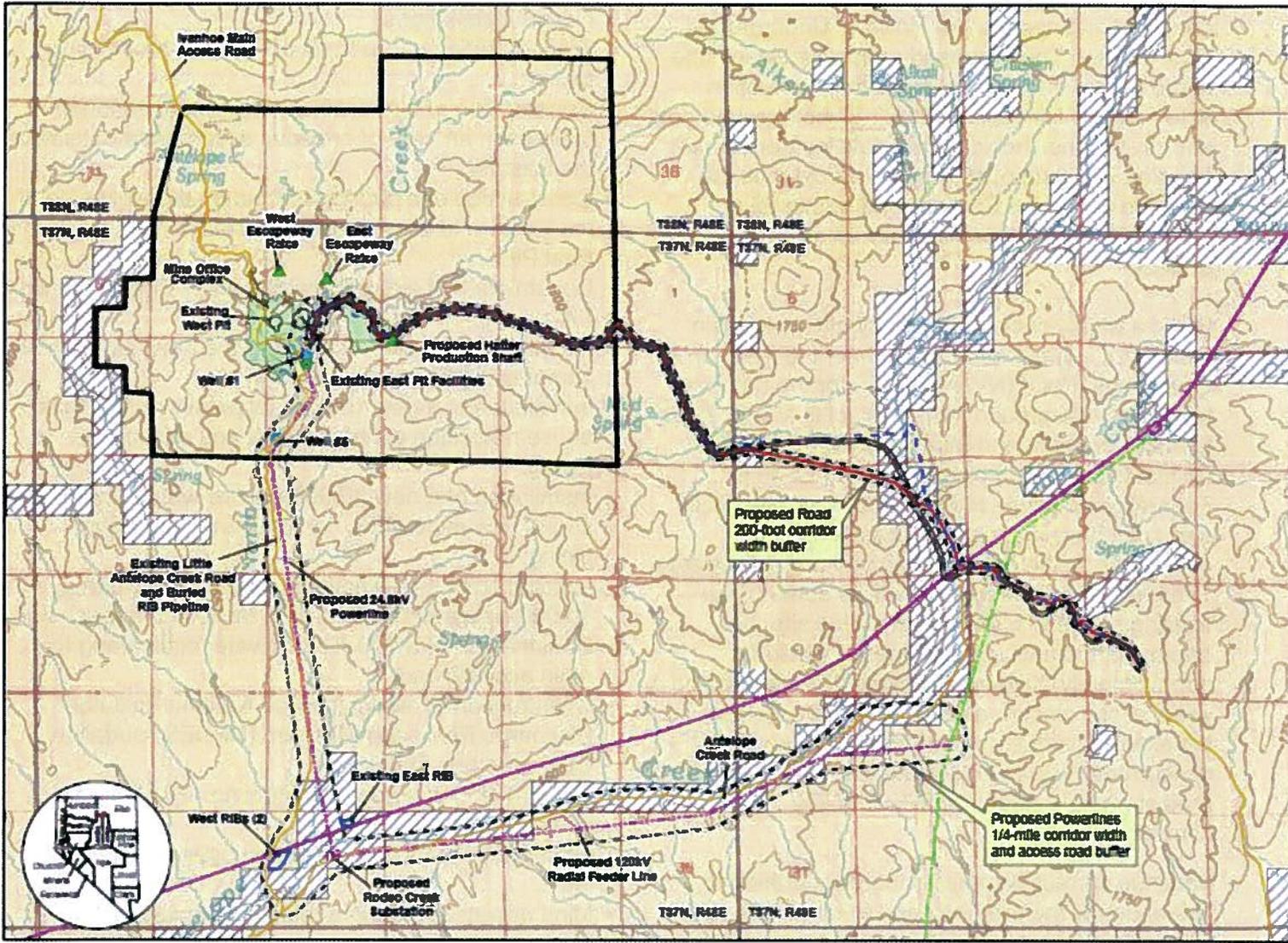
**Analysis Corridor = 1750 acres (approximately)**

**Total Existing Disturbance = 66 acres**

**Total Proposed New Permanent Disturbance = 58 acres**

**Total Ultimate Permanent Disturbance = 124 acres**

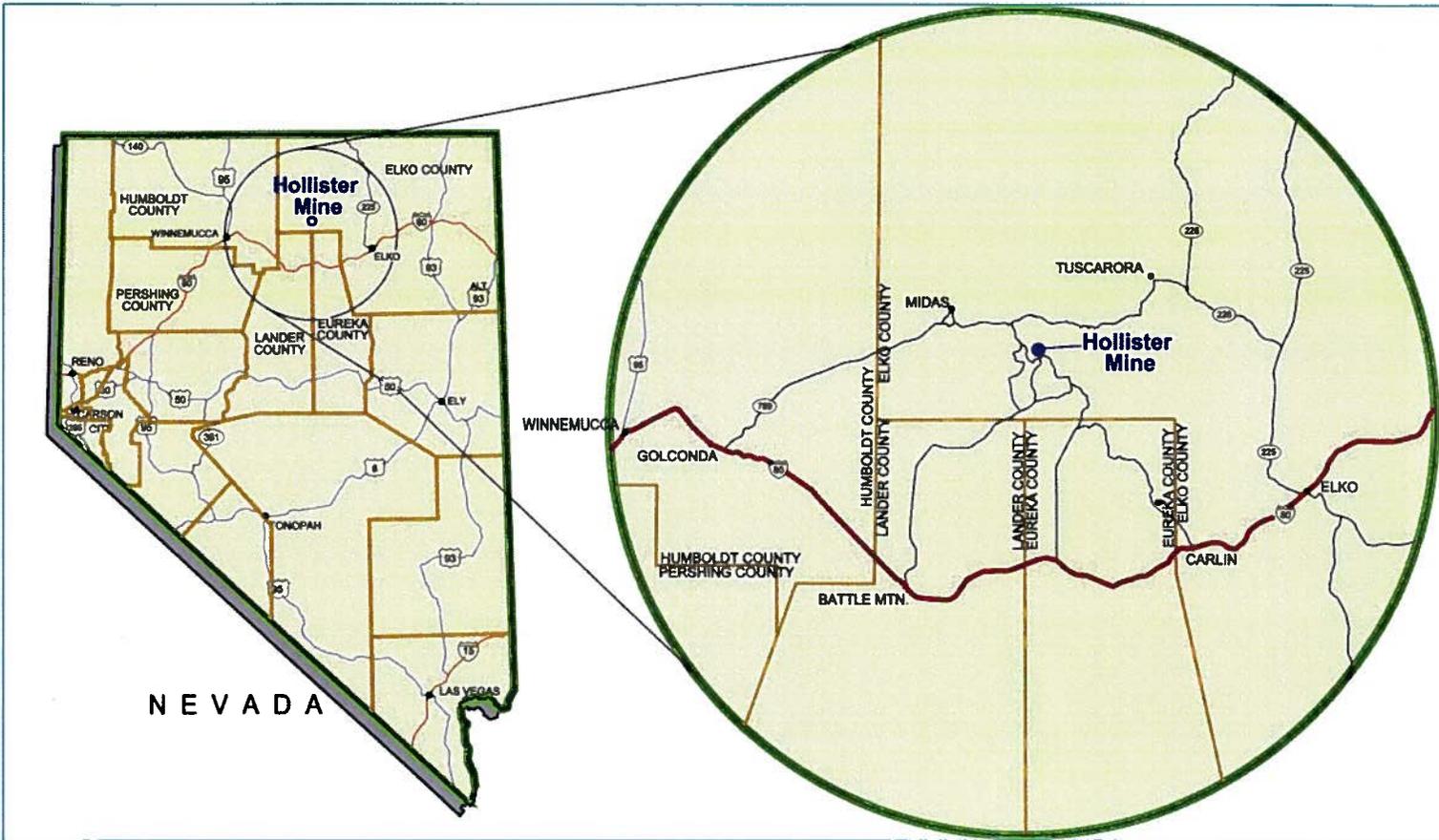
# Project Area and Surface Ownership



04/08/2010

- Legend**
- Proposed Core Project Boundary
  - Existing Authorized Mining Disturbance by Other
  - Proposed Disturbance Area
  - Proposed Powerline
  - Existing 120 kV line
  - Existing 345 kV Line
  - RIB (Rapid Infiltration Bas
  - Private Land
  - BLM Land
  - Road

# Project General Location



# Hollister Underground Mine Project

## Environmental Impact Statement

### Public Scoping Meetings

May 10, 2010; 4–7 p.m. PDT

**BLM Winnemucca District Office**

May 11, 2010; 4–7 p.m. PD

**BLM Battle Mountain District Office**

May 12, 2010; 4–7 p.m. PDT

**BLM Elko District Office**

May 13, 2010; 3–6 p.m. PDT, 4–7 MDT **Mountain City Justice Court Building**