



**File Code:** 1950

**Date:** August 27, 2010

Dear Interested Party:

The Mountain City Ranger District requests your comments and concerns regarding a proposal we have received from Concord Minerals (Concord) to conduct additional exploratory drilling for precious metals on National Forest System lands. The project (known as Tipperary North Fork Project) is located about five miles southwest of the Wild Horse Reservoir and at the mouth of North Fork Canyon. This is a continuation of drilling completed in 2009. A general location map is included for your information

The purpose and need for action is Concord's proposal to explore on its mining claims (a statutory right under the 1872 Mining Law) and the Forest Service's responsibility to approve or require modifications to the proposed plan in accordance with federal mining and environmental laws.

Concord proposes to use up to two drill rigs to drill shallow holes at 61 drill sites in the summer and fall of 2011. Access to drill sites will require construction of less than 5,000 feet of new road and 5,234 feet of cross country travel. Within the area where drilling will occur, the operator will utilize, to the extent practical, existing roads. It is estimated the project will create about 10.8 acres of new surface disturbance. All drill holes will be plugged according to state standards and all surface disturbed by the project will be reclaimed as soon as exploration is complete and no later than the fall of 2012. Lawful mineral exploration is consistent with the current management prescription for this management area.

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 exploratory drilling, initial concerns for this proposed project include:

- The effects on riparian areas, water quality, and quantity.
- Impacts on wildlife species and 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 roadless characteristics.
- 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. In addition to commenting about impacts to historic sites, certain individuals and organizations with a demonstrated interest in the undertaking may participate as consulting parties in the Section 106 process. The Forest Service shall consider all written requests to participate as consulting party. We will coordinate our review of impacts to heritage resources that is required under Section 106 with our NEPA review for this project.

Your written comments and concerns should be sent to Glenn Davis, Project Coordinator, at the above address or emailed to [gddavis@fs.fed.us](mailto:gddavis@fs.fed.us).

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.

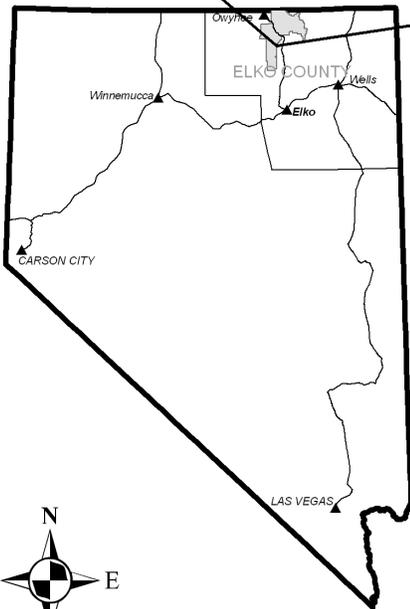
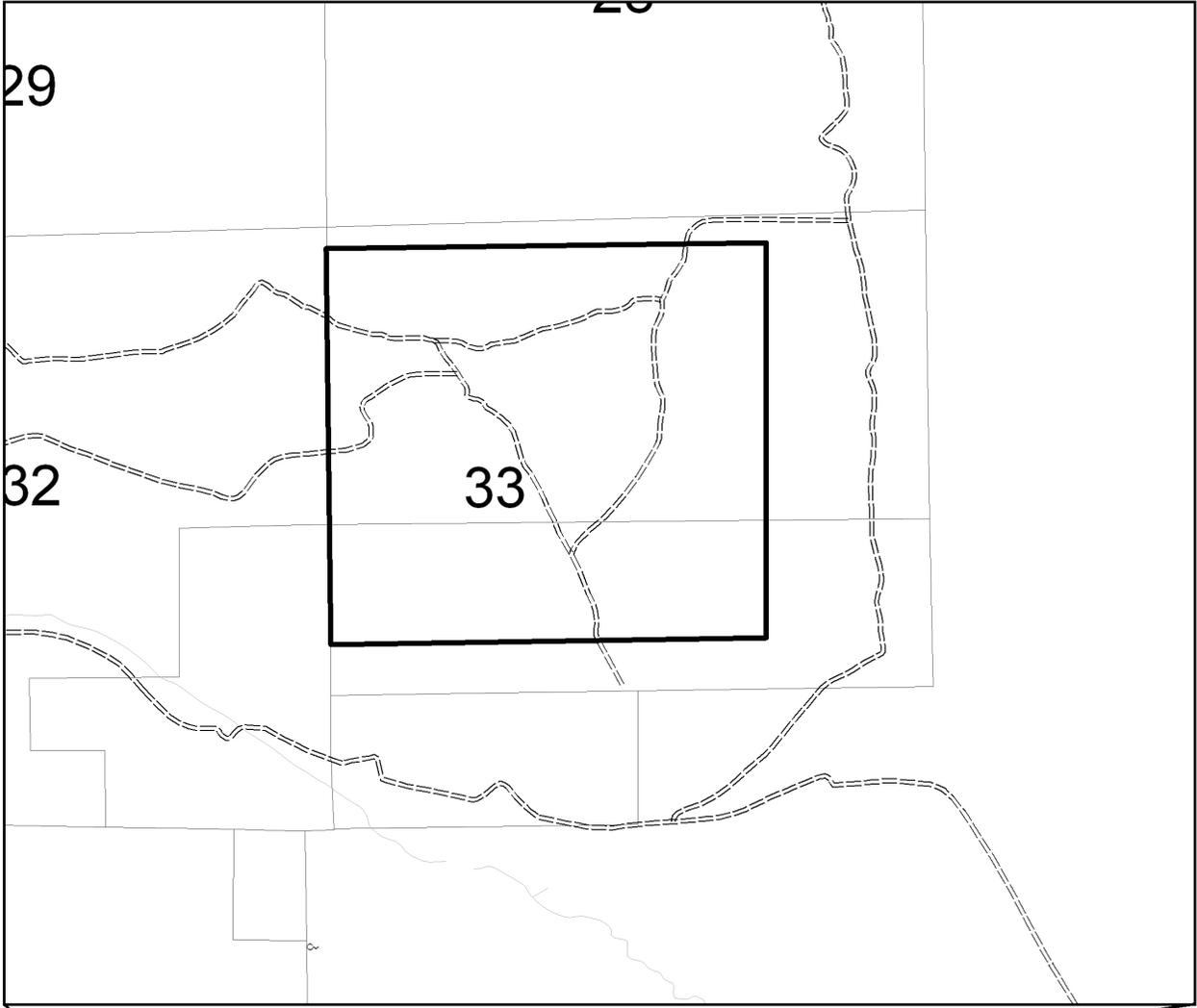
The Forest Service requests your comments on this project by **October 4, 2010**. We also ask that you inform us of whether or not you wish to remain on the mailing list for this project. If we do not hear from you regarding your interest, we may remove you from the project mailing list.

For more information on this project, please contact Glenn Davis at (775) 778-6108. Thank you for your interest in the management of your national forests.

Sincerely,

THOMAS A. MONTOYA  
District Ranger

Enclosure



Concord Minerals  
 Tipperary Project - 2010  
 Mountain City Ranger District  
 Humboldt - Toiyabe National Forest

Location Map



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.