



File Code: 2810

Date: September 3, 2010

Dear Interested Party:

The Tonopah Ranger District has received a Plan of Operations from Ranger Resources Corporation to conduct exploratory drilling in the Toquima Range on National Forest System lands in Sections 17, 18, 19, 21, 28, 29, and 30 of T10N, R46E, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, Nye County, Nevada. The proposed Plan of Operations (POO #04-10-01) is referred to as the "CX Project".

**Proposed Action:** Ranger Resources proposes drilling at up to 14 drill sites in the Corcoran Canyon area. Some drill sites may include more than one drill hole. Access to the project will be by US Highway 6 approximately 5 miles east from Tonopah, and then State Highway 376 approximately 13 miles north, thence northeast on Nye County 82 past the town of Belmont to the Corcoran Canyon turnoff on Forest Service Road 445, then northwest on Road 445 approximately 2 miles to the CX project boundary. Exploration activities would occur along existing roads and by approximately 2,300-ft of overland travel from existing roads. No new road construction will occur. Drilling will be conducted using a reverse circulation buggy or track-mounted drill rig, supported by a water truck, pipe truck, pickup trucks for drilling personnel and an ATV for access and sample transport. Sumps will be constructed near each drill site to contain cuttings and any ground water encountered in drilling. Total surface disturbance associated with drill pads, sumps, and overland travel will be about 0.34 acres. Reclamation work would consist of plugging all holes to State of Nevada standards, and completing seasonal maintenance and reclamation of other newly disturbed areas as necessary. Final reclamation would consist of filling in and re-contouring all drill pads, sumps pits, cross-country travel routes and other disturbance, then raking and seeding with an approved native seed mixture.

**Preliminary Issues and Concerns:** No issues or concerns have been identified upon initial review of the project. A cultural resource survey and a survey for Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive plant and animal species (Biological Assessment and Evaluation) will be required. The results of these surveys will dictate whether the plan will need to be modified to minimize impacts to these resources.

**Preliminary Alternatives:** No alternatives to the proposed action, other than the No Action alternative, have been identified at this time.

Approximately 60% of the project area has been classified with a Recreation Opportunity Spectrum of Roaded Natural, with a Visual Quality Objective of Partial Retention/Modification, while the remaining approximately 40% of the area has been classified with a Recreation Opportunity Spectrum of Semi Primitive Non-Motorized, with a Visual Quality Objective of Partial Retention/Modification. Approximately one-third of the project area falls within the Alta T-East B Inventoried Roadless Area. Therefore, Roadless issues are involved

A general location map is included for your information. Site-specific maps may be considered confidential, as outlined in 36 CFR 228.6. Comments submitted, as well as the names and addresses of those who comment, are considered part of the public record and will be released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Your comments are welcome and encouraged. Please be sure to comment by **October 4, 2010**. Direct comments to: **District Ranger, Tonopah Ranger District, P.O. Box 3940, Tonopah, NV 89049**. You may contact Jim Rigby at the Tonopah Ranger District at **775-482-7887** for any additional information.

Sincerely,

STEVEN WILLIAMS  
District Ranger

Enclosure: map



