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BUDGET AND PLANNING DIVISION

# Request for Comments Scoping

## Belmont Mill Stabilization Project USDA Forest Service – Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Ely Ranger District

May 6, 2011

### Project description

The Belmont Stabilization project is a Section 110 stabilization of a 1926 silver mill and surrounding buildings and structures, including an assay office, supervisor's office, aerial tramway and towers, boardinghouses, sheds and workshops. Because of concerns that the buildings were structurally unstable, the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest sought Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNLPMA) funding for stabilization. Expecting that the stabilization might include adverse affects to this site, a Historic American Engineering Record Report (HAER) was completed for the Ely Ranger District, Ely, Nevada. The stabilization project will follow the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Preservation. Removal or capping of hazardous materials waste rock piles, and the removal of hazardous chemical materials from inside of the mill buildings, will also take place as part of this undertaking for health and safety purposes.

### Project location

The Project Area is located in the White Pine Mountain Range, seven miles south of US Highway 50 in White Pine County. The project area covers 14 acres in the W 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of SE 1/4 of Section 1, T.16N, R.57E.

### Why this location?

The Belmont Mill is visited by hundreds of visitors every year and is in danger of collapse.

### The decision to be made

The decision to be made is whether or not to stabilize the Belmont Mill and other buildings on

the compound and whether to remove hazardous waste from the site.

### What we have learned so far

- The Belmont Mill was built in 1926 and is in danger of collapse
- Like many mining properties, the site contains hazardous waste in the form of cyanide, asbestos, and mercury.

### How we will figure out what to do

We will use these issues, the comments we receive and the results of archeological, vegetation and wildlife on-site surveys to determine the possible effects (positive and negative) of stabilizing the mill and removing the hazardous waste.

### How you can help us decide what to do

We ask that you think about this proposal and let us know what you think. This comment/scoping period provides those interested in or affected by this proposal an opportunity to make their concerns known prior to any decision being made. Comments for this scoping period will be accepted through June 10, 2011.

### We want to hear from you ...

If you would like more information on this proposal or would like to submit a comment contact:

Eric Stever  
District Archaeologist  
Ely Ranger District  
825 Ave E  
Ely, NV 89301  
775-289-5137  
estever@fs.fed.us

Public involvement in the NEPA process is essential. Scoping is performed as one of the first steps to receive input from interested individuals, organizations and government agencies including federal, state, and local agencies. We invite you to submit written comments stating your concerns and issues that are relevant to the proposed project. Comments received in response to this scoping document and from personal contacts will be considered during the analysis of this project.

*Ely Ranger District  
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest*

## **Belmont Mill Stabilization Project**

### **Comment Form**

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We have provided this form for your convenience.

*For your information: names and individuals commenting on Forest Service proposals may be released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act.*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Here are my concerns, issues, and/or ideas about the Belmont Mill Stabilization Project:**

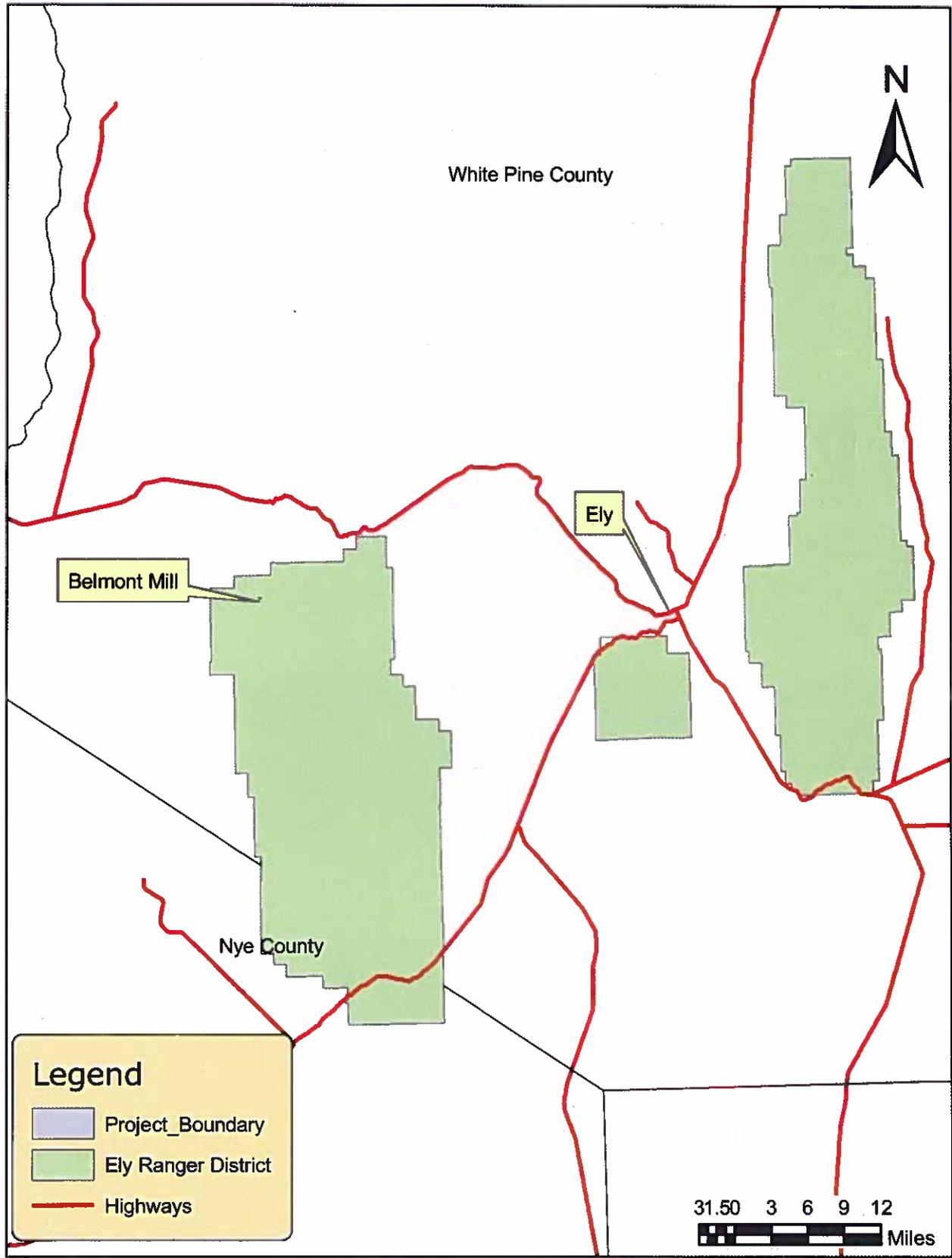
**Please check all that apply...**

**I have information about the area that may be helpful in the decision.  
Feel free to contact me at \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Please send me the final decision document.**

**I have no further interest in this proposal and do not want to receive further mailings.**

# Belmont Mill Stabilization



Map Created by Eric Stever  
May 5, 2011  
Scale 1:750,000

Nevada - Political Division