



File Code: 2810

Date: July 12, 2011

Dear Interested Party:

The Austin Ranger District has received a Plan of Operations from Cordex Exploration Company to conduct exploratory drilling in the Toquima Range on National Forest System lands in Sections 22 and 27 of T17N, R46E, Lander County, Nevada. The proposed Plan of Operations (POO #03-11-01) is the "Pete's Summit" drilling project.

Proposed Action: Cordex Exploration proposes drilling from up to 11 drill sites in the Pete's Summit project area. Access to the project area will be eastward from Austin on U.S. Hwy 50, then southward on FS Road 43281 for approximately 4 miles, then southeast on Rutherford Canyon Road (FS Road 43283) for approximately 4 miles to the project area. Existing roads, construction of up to approximately 4,322 ft. of new temporary roads, and approximately 642 ft. of overland travel will be used to access the drill sites. In addition, one 100 x 100-ft. staging area will be constructed adjacent to an existing road.

Ten of the eleven drill sites, and part of the staging area, will be within the Toquima Cave Inventoried Roadless Area, as will all the new road construction and the overland travel route. Drilling will be conducted using one track- or skid-mounted reverse circulation or core drill rig, with roads, pads, and sumps constructed using a D7 or D8 dozer, a Cat 320 excavator, or equivalent. Total surface disturbance including drill pads, sumps, staging area, new roads and cross-country travel routes will be approximately 2.9 acres.

Reclamation work would consist of plugging all holes to State of Nevada standards and completing seasonal maintenance/reclamation of other newly disturbed areas as necessary. Final reclamation would consist of filling-in and recontouring all drill pads, mud pits, new roads, and any other disturbance, then raking and seeding with an approved native weed-free seed mixture.

Preliminary Issues and Concerns: Upon initial review issues related to the Inventoried Roadless Area have been identified. Due to the project's proximity to Toquima Cave issues related to heritage resources have also been identified. An archaeological survey and a survey for any Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive plant and animal species (Biological Assessment and Evaluation) will be required.

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

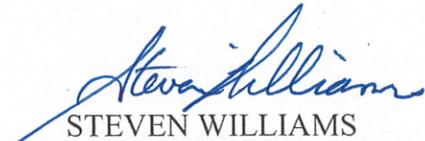
Part of the area of the proposed project has been classified with a Recreation Opportunity Spectrum of Roaded Natural, while the remainder of the area has been classified with a Recreation Opportunity Spectrum of Semi Primitive Non-Motorized. The Visual Quality Objective classification is Partial Retention. 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).

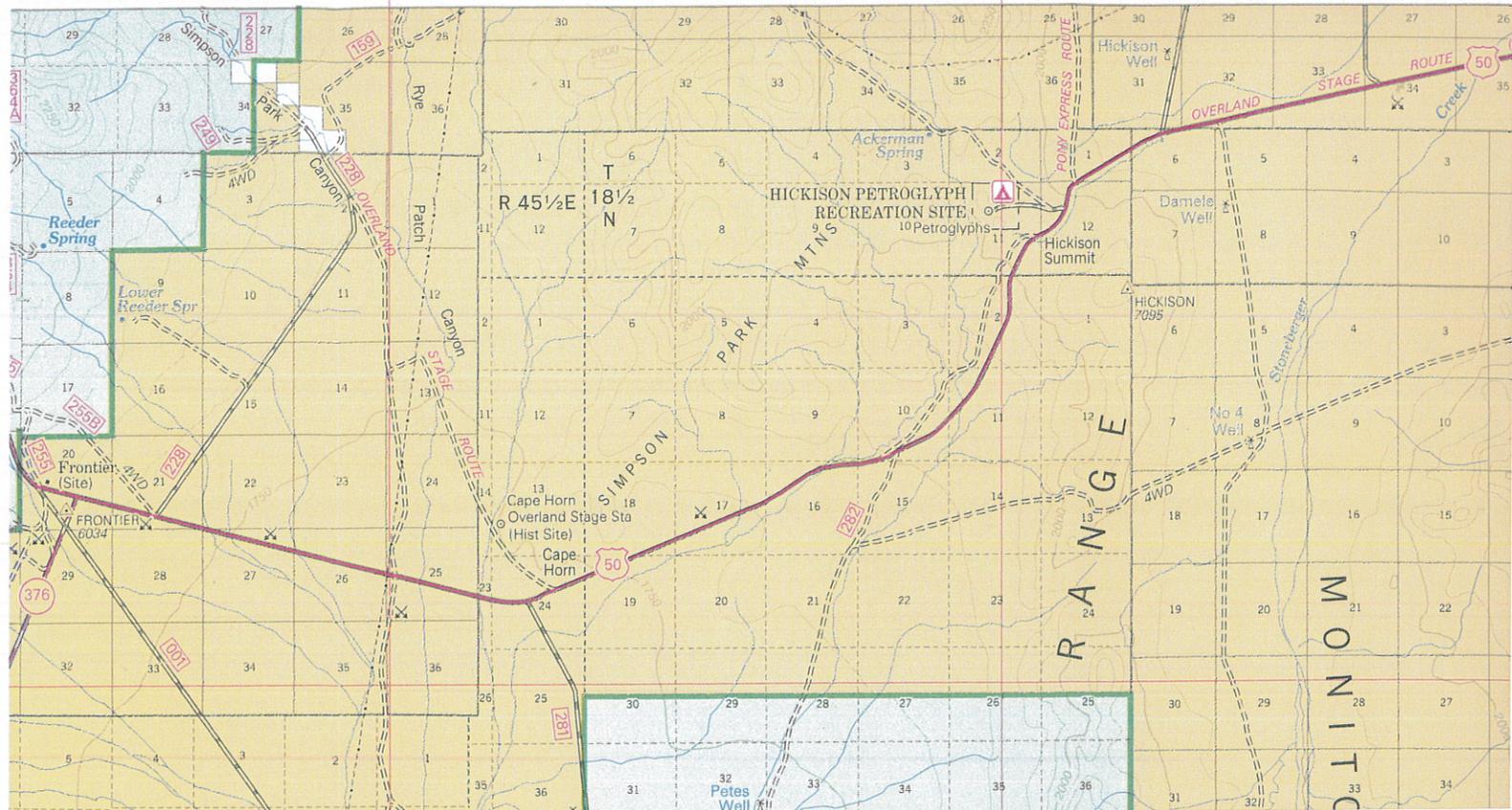


Your comments are welcome and encouraged. Please be sure to comment by **August 15, 2011**. Direct comments to: **District Ranger, Tonopah Ranger District, P.O. Box 3940, Tonopah, NV 89049**. You may contact Jim Rigby at the Tonopah Ranger District at 775-482-6286 for any additional information.

Sincerely,



STEVEN WILLIAMS
District Ranger



CORDEX EXPLORATION CO.
Pete's Summit Exploration Project
Plan of Operations #03-11-01

Secs. 22-23 & 26-27, T17N, R46E

