



File Code: 1950/2810

Date: July 21, 2011

Dear Interested Party:

The Mountain City Ranger District requests your comments and concerns regarding the Wood Gulch Exploration Project proposal we have received from Western Exploration Inc. (Western) to conduct additional exploratory drilling for precious metals on National Forest System lands.

The project is located about 64 miles north-northwest of Elko in Elko County, Nevada. The project is located within portions of Sections 14, 23, 24, 25, 26, 35, & 36, T44N, R53E, and Sections 7, 18, 19, 30 & 31, T44N, R54E MDB&M and covers approximately 3,300 acres of public land. Up to 100 acres (including the existing 0.73 acres disturbed under the existing Plan of Operations) are proposed to be disturbed with drill roads and pads in a multi-phased drilling project for the next ten years. Up to approximately 12 miles of drill roads may be constructed and up to 230 drill holes may be drilled. Most drill holes will be less than 1,500 feet deep but some may be as deep as 3,000 feet. Maps showing the project area, phase I drill sites and existing disturbance are enclosed.

Phase I of the project includes 4,387 feet of new constructed temporary road and 28 drill sites. All drill holes will be plugged according to state laws. All surface disturbed by the project will be recontoured and revegetated at the completion of exploration.

The purpose and need for action is Western'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 and regulations.

The Forest Service will conduct an Environmental Assessment 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 heritage resources.



Your written comments and concerns should be sent to Glenn Davis, Project Coordinator, at the above address, email to gddavis@fs.fed.us or by fax 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 **August 22, 2011**. 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.

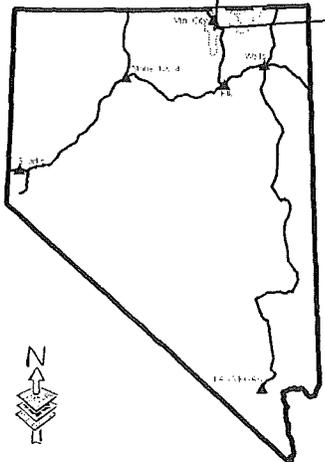
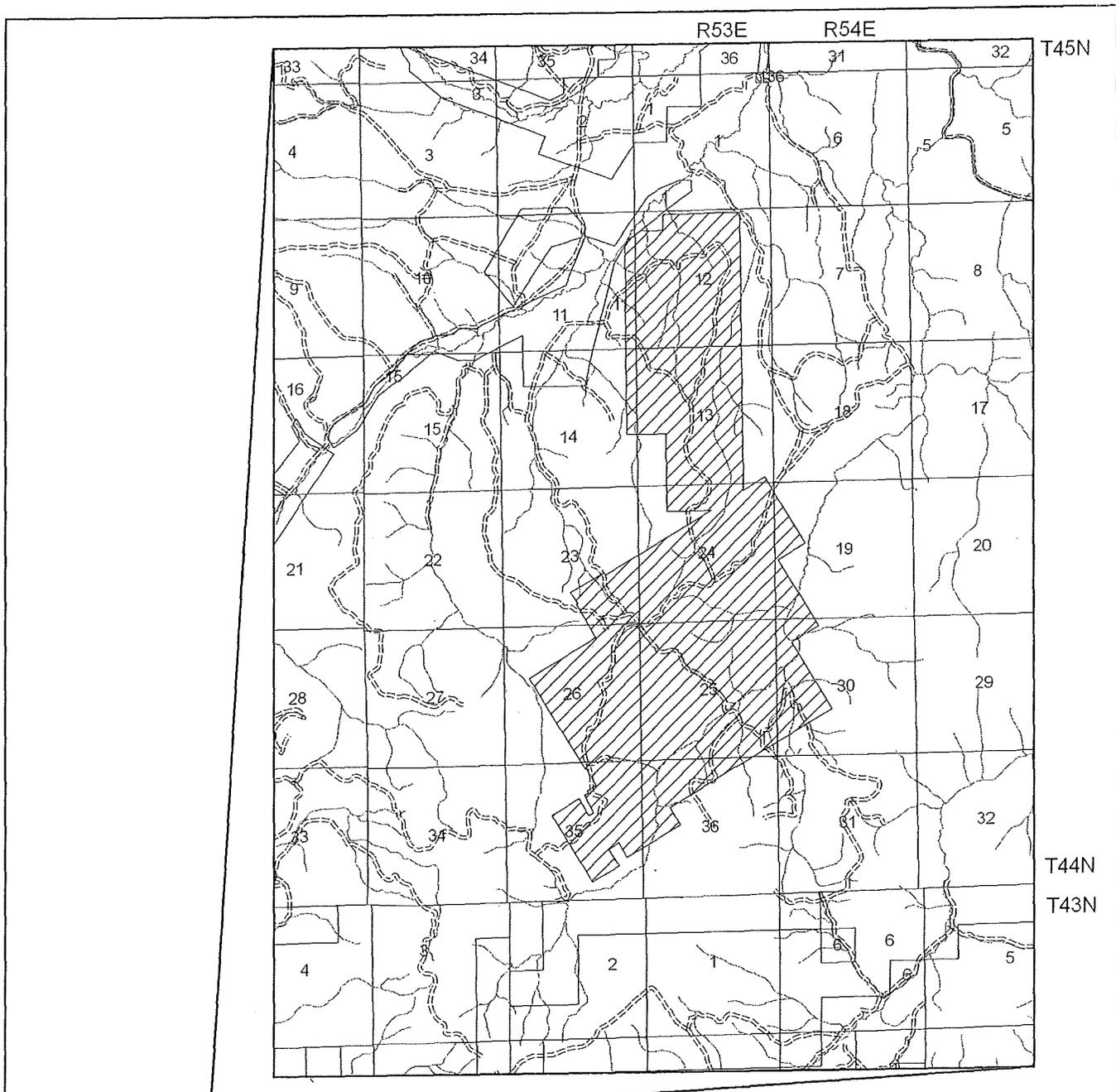
For more information on this project, please contact Glenn Davis at (775) 778-6108. Thank you for your interest in the management of your National Forests.

Sincerely,



TOM MONTOYA
District Ranger

Enclosures

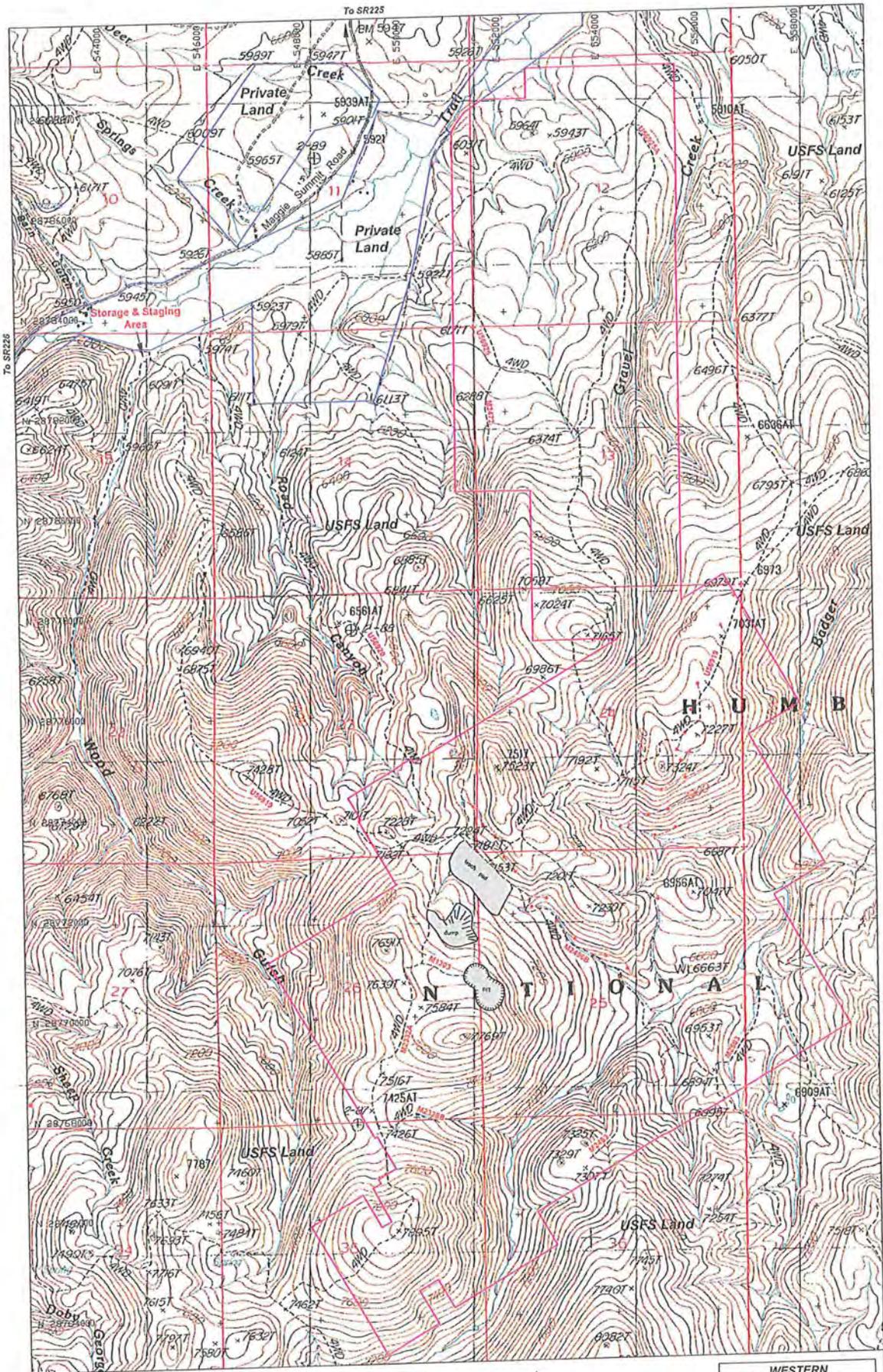


LOCATION MAP

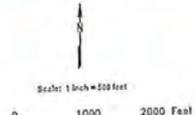
Western Exploration's Wood Gulch Project
 Mountain City Ranger District
 Humboldt - Toiyabe National Forest

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.





- Public lands project area
- Private Land
- Roads
- Existing Drill Road
- Proposed Drill Road
- * Proposed Drill Site



Nevada State Plane Coordinates, East Zone NAD83

WESTERN EXPLORATION, INC
Wood Gulch Project
 Elko County, Nevada
 T44N, R53-54E
 Wood Gulch Plan of Operations 2011
 Phase 1 - Proposed Drill Sites & Roads

FIGURE 3

65170211 JBA WORKS, INC
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