



File Code: 2810

Date: August 25, 2011

The Austin Ranger District has received a Plan of Operations from Halliburton Energy Services to conduct exploratory drilling in the Toquima Range on National Forest System lands in Sections 28 and 33 of T13N, R46E, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, Nye County, Nevada. The proposed Plan of Operations (POO #03-11-03) is referred to as the "Ann" exploration project.

Proposed Action: Halliburton Energy Services proposes drilling at up to 12 drill sites in the Ann project area. Some drill sites may include more than one drill hole. Access to the project will be from Tonopah by travelling north on State Highway 376 to County Road 82 through Belmont to Forest Service Road 490 at the mouth of Ella May Canyon. The project site is approximately 2.5 miles west of County Road 82 beyond the end of Forest Service Road 490. Exploration activities would occur on existing drill pads along existing, unreclaimed exploration roads; the existing roads and drill pads were constructed during exploration activity in the area in the early-mid 1980s. Existing drill pads average approximately 55 x 55-ft. in size including the sump; preparation work on the pads and roads will consist of clearing slough from the uphill side of road cuts, clearing of brush from roads and pads, and cleaning/deepening sumps. No new disturbance is proposed and no new road construction will occur. A CAT D7 dozer, or equivalent, and/or a CAT 325C excavator, or equivalent, will be used to prepare the drill pads and roads for the drill rig; the drill rig will consist of a truck-mounted drill rig. Only one drill rig will be used to drill all the holes. The drill rig will be supported by a pipe truck, a water truck, an auxiliary air compressor, a portable light plant/generator, and an ATV and 4-wheel drive pickup trucks. Upon completion of drilling, the dozer or excavator will again be used to reclaim the drill sites and sumps. All project disturbance will be reclaimed by recontouring and re-seeding with an approved weed-free native seed mix upon completion of the project, or if needed for subsequent exploration by Halliburton, other nearby, alternate areas of existing exploration disturbance will be reclaimed by Halliburton. All drill holes will be plugged to State of Nevada standards. Total surface disturbance associated with drill pads, sumps, and existing roads will be about 3.1 acres.

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.

The project area has been classified with a Recreation Opportunity Spectrum of Semiprimitive Non-motorized and Semiprimitive Motorized, and with a Visual Quality Objective of Partial Retention. No 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 5, 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 **775-482-7887** for any additional information.

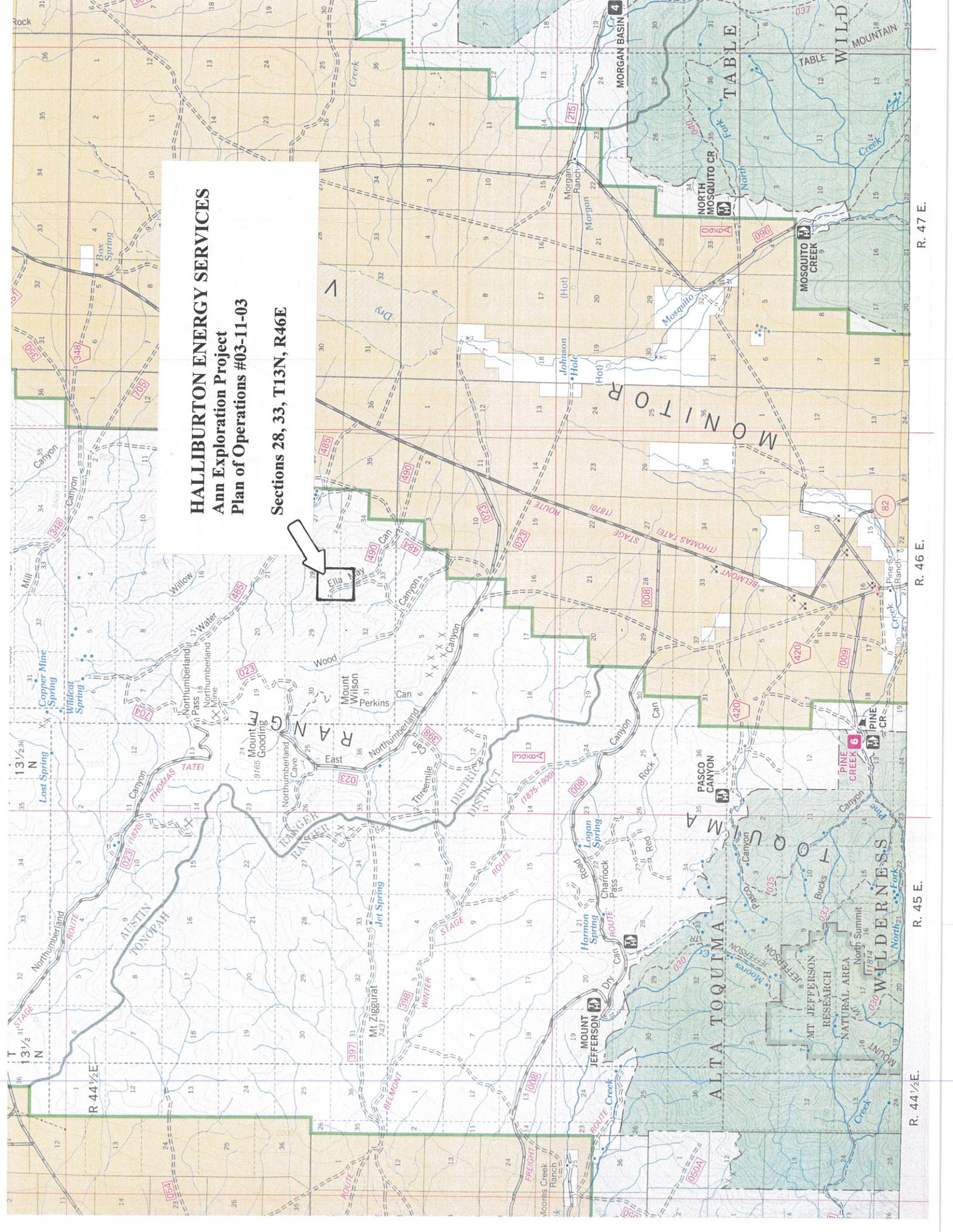
Sincerely,

/s/Steven Williams
STEVEN WILLIAMS
District Ranger

Enclosure

HALLIBURTON ENERGY SERVICES
Ann Exploration Project
Plan of Operations #03-11-03

Sections 28, 33, T13N, R46E



R. 47 E.

R. 46 E.

R. 45 E.

R. 44 1/2 E.