



File Code: 2810/1950
Date: April 4, 2012

Dear Interested Party:

Previously, the Mountain City Ranger District mailed scoping documents for two minerals projects that may be categorically excluded from further analysis and documentation in an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS). The mailings requested public scoping comments on the projects.

These projects include:

Jim Boy Placer Project – The project area is located on Union Gulch, Charleston Mining District in northeastern Nevada. The proposed action is to run a previously disturbed stockpile through a small sluice to search for gold. The work area, which includes the stockpile, is 50 feet by 300 feet and near existing roads. Access to the project area is by existing roads. The operation will consist of 3 trenches 10 feet by 20 feet by 4 feet deep. Excavation will be done with a small pull behind backhoe. See attached map.

Island Mountain Exploration Project – The project area is located 15 miles northeast of Wildhorse Reservoir, near Gold Creek, Elko County, Nevada. The proposed action is for exploration drilling of 56 drill holes from 48 drill sites. Access to the project area is by existing roads. See attached map.

In the interim, a District Court ruling ordered that categorically excluded projects documented in a decision memo be subject to notice, comment, and appeal regulations. As a result, the projects identified above are now subject to the notice, comment, and appeal regulations at 36 CFR 215, as specified for EAs.

For additional details regarding these projects, please reference the previously mailed scoping documents. You can also view these documents on-line at

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/htnf/landmanagement/projects> or request a written copy by contacting the Mountain City Ranger District at the address listed above or by contacting the Project Lead, Manuel Silva at (775)778-6129.

The Forest Service encourages your comments on these proposed projects. Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted for 30 calendar days following the publication of this notice in the Elko Daily Free Press, the newspaper of record. It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period.

Any comments submitted in response to the previous scoping documents for this projects will be considered and confer appeal eligibility; you are not required to submit additional comments unless you have a need to resubmit to meet the requirements identified below in 36 CFR 215.6.



Mailed comments must be submitted to: District Ranger, Mountain City Ranger District, 2035 Last Chance Road, Elko, Nevada 89801. The fax number is (775) 778-6167. Office business hours for those submitting comments in person are: 7:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays.

Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), and Word (.doc) to comments-intermtn-humboldt-toiyabe-mtn-city@fs.fed.us. Comments must have an identifiable name attached, or verification of identity will be required. A scanned signature may serve as verification on electronic comments.

Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to appeal must provide the information identified in 36 CFR 215.6, including : [i] name and address; [ii] title of the proposed action; [iii] specific comments (36 CFR 215.2) on the proposed action, along with supporting reasons that the Responsible Official should consider in reaching a decision; [iv] signature or other verification of identity upon request; identification of the individual or organization who authored the comment(s) is necessary for appeal eligibility; [iv.A] for appeals listing multiple organizations or multiple individuals, a signature or other means of verification must be provided for the individual authorized to represent each organization and for each individual in the case of multiple names, to meet appeal eligibility requirements; [iv. B] those using electronic means may submit a scanned signature. Otherwise another means of verifying the identity of the individual or organizational representative may be necessary for electronically submitted comments or comments received by telephone; [v] individual members of an organization must submit their own comments to meet the requirements of appeal eligibility; comments received on behalf of an organization are considered as those of the organization only.

Comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project and will be available for public inspection and will be released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act.

For additional information please contact Manuel Silva, Mountain City Ranger District at (775) 778-6129 or email at mrsilva@fs.fed.us. We thank you for your interest in our National Forests.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kathryn W. Fuell
KATHRYN W. FUELL
District Ranger

Enclosures: project maps

cc: Susan G Elliott, Manuel R Silva