



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Mount Lewis Field Office

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Battle Mountain, Nevada 89820

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http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/battle_mountain_field.html

In Reply Refer To:

DOI-BLM-NV-B010-2013-0031-EIS

3809 (NVB0100)

NVN-090702

FEB 04 2013

Dear Interested Party:

Newmont Mining Corporation (Newmont) has submitted a Plan of Operations (Plan) to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for a proposed development of the Buffalo Valley Mine Project (Project), pursuant to Federal regulations for surface management (of mining) at 43 CFR 3809. The BLM has determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared to analyze the proposed Plan.

In June 2012, Newmont, in a joint venture with Fairmile Gold, submitted a plan of operations to construct, operate, reclaim, and close an open pit, heap leach, precious metal mining operation known as the Buffalo Valley Mine Project. The proposed Project is located in Lander and Humboldt counties, about 20 miles southwest of Battle Mountain, Nevada, and 12 miles northwest of Newmont's Phoenix Mine. The life of this project would be approximately 10 years. During the production phase of the project, Newmont anticipates a workforce of 120 employees.

The proposed project area would be comprised of approximately 5,968 acres, of which 3,662 acres are public land administered by the BLM. Approximately 2,274 of the 3,662 acres are within the Battle Mountain District managed by the Mount Lewis Field Office and approximately 1,388 acres are within the Winnemucca District managed by the Humboldt River Field Office. The BLM has agreed that the Mount Lewis Field Office will manage all of the public land on this proposal. Approximately 2,306 acres within the proposed project area are private land controlled by Newmont.

The proposed project is estimated to produce about 40 million tons of ore grade material from an estimated extraction of up to 226 million tons of material. The proposal consists of the following components: two open pits; mine dewatering system; three waste rock storage areas; crushing system; heap leach pad; process facility; high-grade ore stockpile; process ponds; borrow pit; storm water pond and diversion ditches; small shop/office and maintenance facility; fuel facility; access and haul roads; top soil (growth media) stockpiles; powerline; water supply well; and exploration.

In addition, the Buffalo Valley Mine Road, a county road, which is located in both Lander and Humboldt Counties on the east side of Buffalo Valley bisects the proposed project area and would be rerouted to the west around the proposed project facilities.

An interdisciplinary approach will be used to develop the EIS, in order to consider the variety of resource issues and concerns identified. Potential significant direct, indirect, residual, and cumulative impacts from the proposed action will be analyzed in the EIS.

The BLM is seeking your input regarding issues that should be analyzed in the EIS. A Notice of Intent was published in the Federal Register on February 4, 2013, formally opening the 30-day minimum public scoping period for the EIS. Written comments on the scope of the EIS must be postmarked or otherwise hand delivered by 4:30 PM on March 6, 2013; faxed to ATTN: Andrea Dolbear at (775) 635-4034; or e-mailed to: BLM_NV_BMDO_BuffaloValleyMineProject@blm.gov.

A public scoping meeting will be held:

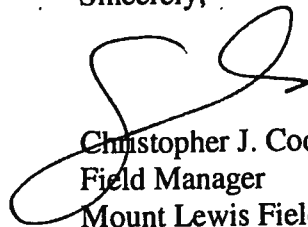
- Thursday, February 21, 2013, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Battle Mountain District Office.

The meeting will combine a brief opening project presentation followed by an open house format. At the meeting, there will be comment forms for your use. The BLM invites public comment on the scope of the analysis, including issues to consider and alternatives to the proposed action. The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis and EIS alternatives. BLM personnel will be present at the scoping meeting to explain the environmental review process, the mining regulations, and other requirements for processing the proposed plan amendment and the associated EIS. Representatives of Newmont will be available to describe the proposal.

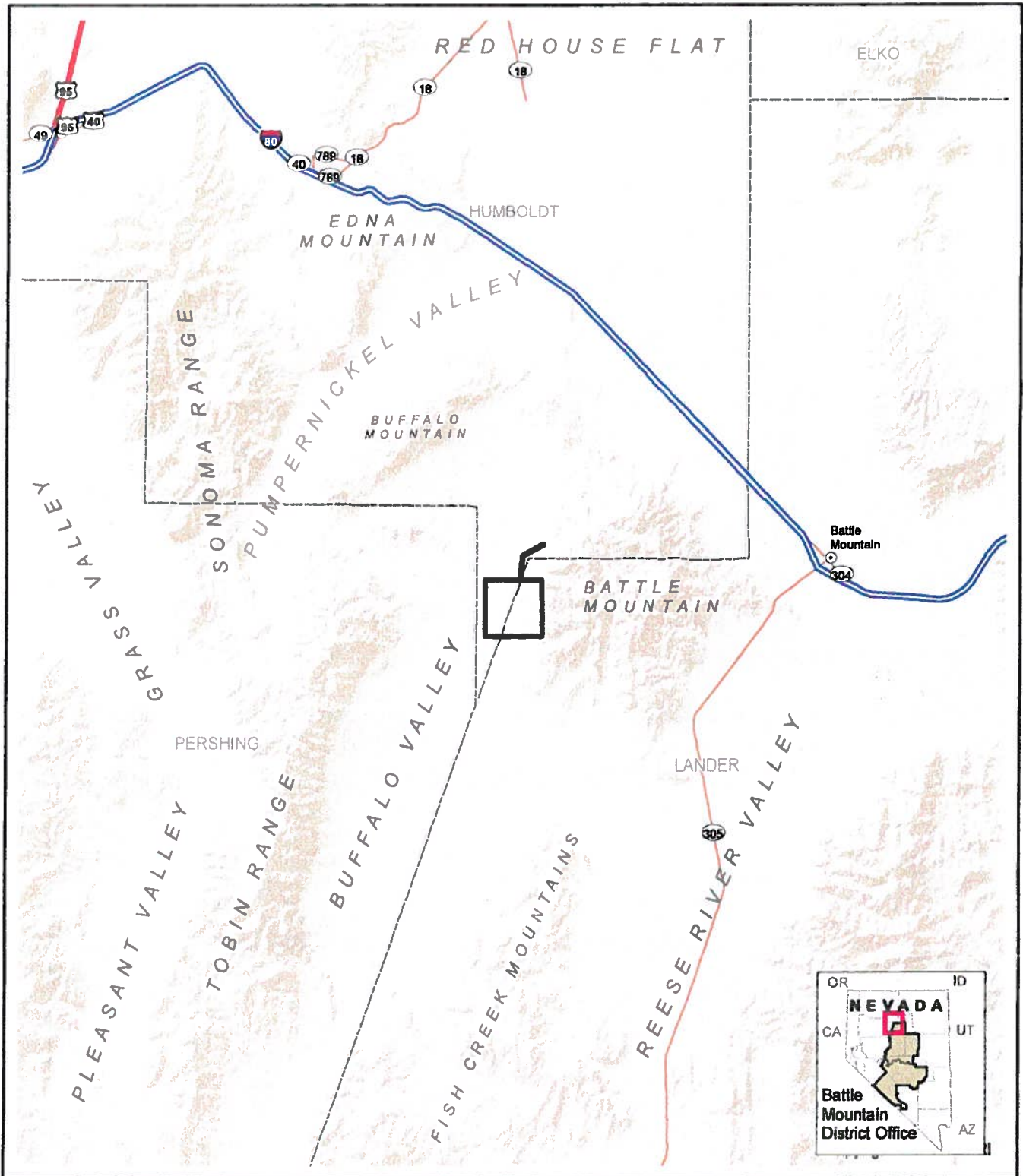
You may submit comments on issues in writing to the BLM at the public scoping meeting or you may submit them to the BLM using one of the methods outlined above. Comments received and a list of attendees at the scoping meeting will be available for public inspection.

Comments and documents pertinent to this proposal, including names and addresses of respondents, may be viewed at the Mount Lewis Field Office during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays). Comments may be published as part of the EIS. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment - including your personal identifying information - may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.




Sincerely,



Christopher J. Cook
Field Manager
Mount Lewis Field Office



Legend

-  Project Area Boundary
-  County Boundary
-  City or Town



February 2013
 Bureau of Land Management
 Battle Mountain District Office
 No warranty is made by the BLM as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Buffalo Valley Mine Project

Figure 1-2
 Project Vicinity

