



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT NEWS RELEASE  
Tonopah Field Office

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## BLM to Begin Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Gemfield Mine Project

Tonopah, Nev.--The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Tonopah Field Office has published in the *Federal Register* a Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Gemfield Mine Project in Esmeralda County. Written comments will be accepted during a 30-day public scoping period that will end on Jan. 22, 2014.

Metallic Goldfield, Inc. (MGI) proposes to construct, operate, reclaim, and close an open pit, heap leach, gold mining operation about 1.5 miles north of Goldfield, Nev. The proposed project area contains approximately 660 acres of public land managed by the BLM Tonopah Field Office and 414 acres of private land controlled by MGI for a total of 1,075 acres. The life of the mine would be approximately 13 years. MGI anticipates a workforce of approximately 150 employees.

The BLM has scheduled a public scoping meeting on Friday, Jan. 10, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Goldfield Elementary School, 5<sup>th</sup> and Ramsey Streets in Goldfield. Comment forms will be available at the meeting. Representatives from MGI and the BLM will be present to answer questions.

The public is being asked to identify issues relevant to the proposed Project. The BLM has identified the following preliminary issues: closure of the proposed cyanide heap leach pad, impacts to cultural resources, impacts to vegetation and wildlife associated with mine development, impacts as a result of the relocation of U.S. Highway 95 and other rights-of-way authorizations, and socioeconomic concerns related to the anticipated influx of mine workers.

Interested individuals should address all written comments to the BLM Tonopah Field Office, 1553 S. Main Street, P.O. Box 911, Tonopah, NV 89049, Attn: Mark Ennes or via fax at (775) 482-7810. Comments may be also submitted via email at: [BLM\\_NV\\_BMDO\\_GemfieldProject@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_NV_BMDO_GemfieldProject@blm.gov).

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware 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 your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Additional information is available online at <http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo.html>. Click on "Battle Mountain District Office" and then click on the Federal Register link provided.

For more information, contact Mark Ennes, Assistant Field Manager, at (775) 482-7835 or [mennes@blm.gov](mailto:mennes@blm.gov).

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. In Fiscal Year 2012, activities on public lands generated \$4.6 billion in revenue, much of which was shared with the States where the activities occurred. In addition, public lands contributed more than \$112 billion to the U.S. economy and helped support more than 500,000 jobs.

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