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Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

Humboldt-Toiyabe
National Forest

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SCOPING DOCUMENT

LONGSTREET MINERALS EXPLORATION PROJECT SUPPLEMENT 2014

TONOPAH RANGER DISTRICT
NYE COUNTY, NEVADA

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COMMENTS WELCOME

The Tonopah Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest is initiating scoping and welcomes your comments on the proposed Longstreet Exploration Project Supplement to Plan of Operations 04-10-02, approved on August 3, 2011, which is located on National Forest System lands within the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. The project proponent (Star Gold Corporation) proposes to conduct mineral exploration in the Monitor Range.

The District has tentatively proposed that this proposed activity may be categorically excluded from further analysis and documentation in an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) (36 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 220). A proposed action may be categorically excluded only if there are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action and the proposed action is within a category listed in section 31.12 or 32.2 of FSH 1909.15. This proposed action falls within section 32.2(8) (see 36 CFR 220.6(e)(8)) –

> *(8) Short-term (1 year or less) mineral, energy, or geophysical investigations and their incidental support activities that may require cross-country travel by vehicles and equipment, construction of less than 1 mile of low standard road, or use and minor repair of existing roads.*

In development and preparation of the Project, the participation of interested persons, state and local governments, and Native American tribes is encouraged at this time and throughout the process prior to a decision by the Responsible Official. The Project Plan of Operations can be reviewed at the Tonopah Ranger District Office during normal business hours. Further information is also available from Jim Rigby, Geologist and Project Lead, at (775) 482-7887.

PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

The purpose of and need for the Proposed Action is to identify, locate, and delineate mineral deposits, specifically by exploration drilling, on NFS lands in the Project Area. The statutory right of Star Gold to explore for mineral resources on federally administered lands is recognized in the General Mining Law of 1872, and is consistent with the Humboldt National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan of 1986 (IV-50). Surface management regulations (36 CFR part 228) require that all mineral exploration, development, and operations activities be conducted in a manner that minimizes adverse environmental impacts on National Forest surface resources (36 CFR 228.8).

LOCATION

The Project is located on the eastern flank of the Monitor Range in the historic Longstreet Mining District, approximately 30 miles northeast of Tonopah, Nevada. The Project is located on National Forest System (NFS) land administered by the United States Forest Service (USFS) in Sections 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 20, and 21, Township 6 North, Range 47 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian. The Project is accessed from Tonopah via U.S. Highway 6 eastward, then north on secondary road 900 to the mouth of Windy Canyon, then westward on FS Road 44405 to the project boundary (Figure 1).

Nearly all of the project area except for FS Road 44405, is located within the Georges Canyon Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA). Activities within the IRA would include drill pad and sump construction within existing unimproved roads extending beyond the end and off of FS Road 44405; no road construction, reconstruction, or timber cutting would occur within the IRA. Some minor tree limbing may need to be done at a few drill sites to permit the safe access and operation of the drill rig and other equipment. Although no road construction, re-construction, or timber cutting will be conducted under this Plan Supplement, Title 36 CFR 294.12 (b)(3) allows for road construction activities within IRAs where *'A road is needed pursuant to reserved or outstanding rights, or as provided for by statute or treaty'*. Title 36 CFR 294.13 (b)(2) allows for *'The cutting, sale, or removal of timber is incidental to the implementation of a management activity not otherwise prohibited by this subpart'*. The proposed operations are inclusive to the General Mining Law of 1872. The project would be designed to minimize impacts to the roadless character, including reclamation of disturbance.

PROPOSED ACTION SUMMARY

The action proposed is to collect samples of rock for mineral and chemical analysis from below the ground surface by means of boreholes. Under this Supplement, Star Gold Corporation proposes to drill 16 boreholes from 16 drill sites in two separate target areas, along with possibly drilling an additional six boreholes from six drill sites in a third target area on an existing road remnant to be accessed via helicopter, as approved under Plan of Operations 04-10-02. The 16 drill sites would be accessed by existing roads and would be the same roads used by Star Gold in its previous drilling under Plan of Operations 04-10-02. No new roads would be constructed. Approximately 4-inch diameter boreholes would be drilled at 45 to 90-degree angles and would not exceed 800 feet in depth. Some sites would have more than one drill hole.

Each of the 16 road-accessible drill sites would occupy an area of approximately 14' x 30' on the existing roads for the skidder-mounted reverse-circulation drill rig with oversize tires, with little to no drill pad construction required. Sumps (mud pits) constructed at each drill site would be approximately 2'x 6' in size. Associated equipment would include a 2000 gallon water truck with water transported every one to two days from the water truck to individual drill sites via an all-terrain buggy rig with a 750 gallon saddle tank. In addition, pickup trucks, an ATV, and a backhoe to construct and reclaim sumps will be used on the project site.

For the six drill sites planned and previously approved for the helicopter area of exploration, a portable drill rig, a light plant, water storage tanks, water pumps, and plastic water line will also be used; all these materials will be flown in and out by helicopter as provided for in Star Gold's original Plan of Operations. Sumps for these six drill sites would be dug by hand near each drill site to contain cuttings and any ground water encountered in drilling. All water used in drilling will be obtained from a private land holder in the area.

Drilling supplies for all three target drilling areas would be stored alongside FS Road 44405 which was used by Star Gold in its previous exploration on the Longstreet project.

The total acreage for the 16 drill pads and sumps on the existing roads is 0.15 acres but only a minor part of this would be considered new disturbance. If the six drill sites to be drilled by helicopter access are drilled under this Supplement, an additional disturbance totaling 0.02 acres would occur, for a grand total of approximately 0.17 acres of disturbance.

Reclamation would include concurrent reclamation to minimize total project disturbance. Final reclamation would be completed within two years of project completion, temporary shutdown, non-use or abandonment. Upon completion of drilling, all boreholes would be plugged and abandoned so as to protect ground water per State of Nevada standards (as specified in Nevada Code NAC 534.420(6) or 534.4371(2)b). Boreholes would be plugged before the drill moves to the next hole.

Sumps and other areas of new disturbance would be allowed to dry and then backfilled and covered with stockpiled soil. There would be minor recontouring of some drill pads depending on the degree of new disturbance. Disturbed areas would be raked and seeded with a Forest Service-approved native seed mix. A portion of the reclamation bond would be held for at least three growing seasons to ensure successful revegetation and control of noxious weeds.

HOW TO COMMENT

Your written comments, concerns, and suggestions for this project should be sent to me, (Steve Williams, District Ranger, Austin-Tonopah Ranger District) at P.O. Box 130, Austin, Nevada 89310; phone (775) 964-2671, fax (775) 964-1451; or you may hand-deliver your comments during normal business hours from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays to 100 Midas Canyon Road, Austin, Nevada. Electronic comments should be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc) to this email address: *comments-intermtn-humboldt-toiyabe-austin-tonopah@fs.fed.us*.

Please use the term "Longstreet Supplement 2014" in the subject line of your email. To be most effective, the Forest Service should receive comments no later than **May 12, 2014.** If requested, a copy of all comments provided in response to this letter will be made available to the public. This includes names, addresses and any other information provided with your comments.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information on the environmental analysis process or this Project, please contact Jim Rigby, Geologist and Project Lead, at (775) 482-7887 (email address: jrigby@fs.fed.us).

Attachments: Figure 1 – Location Map

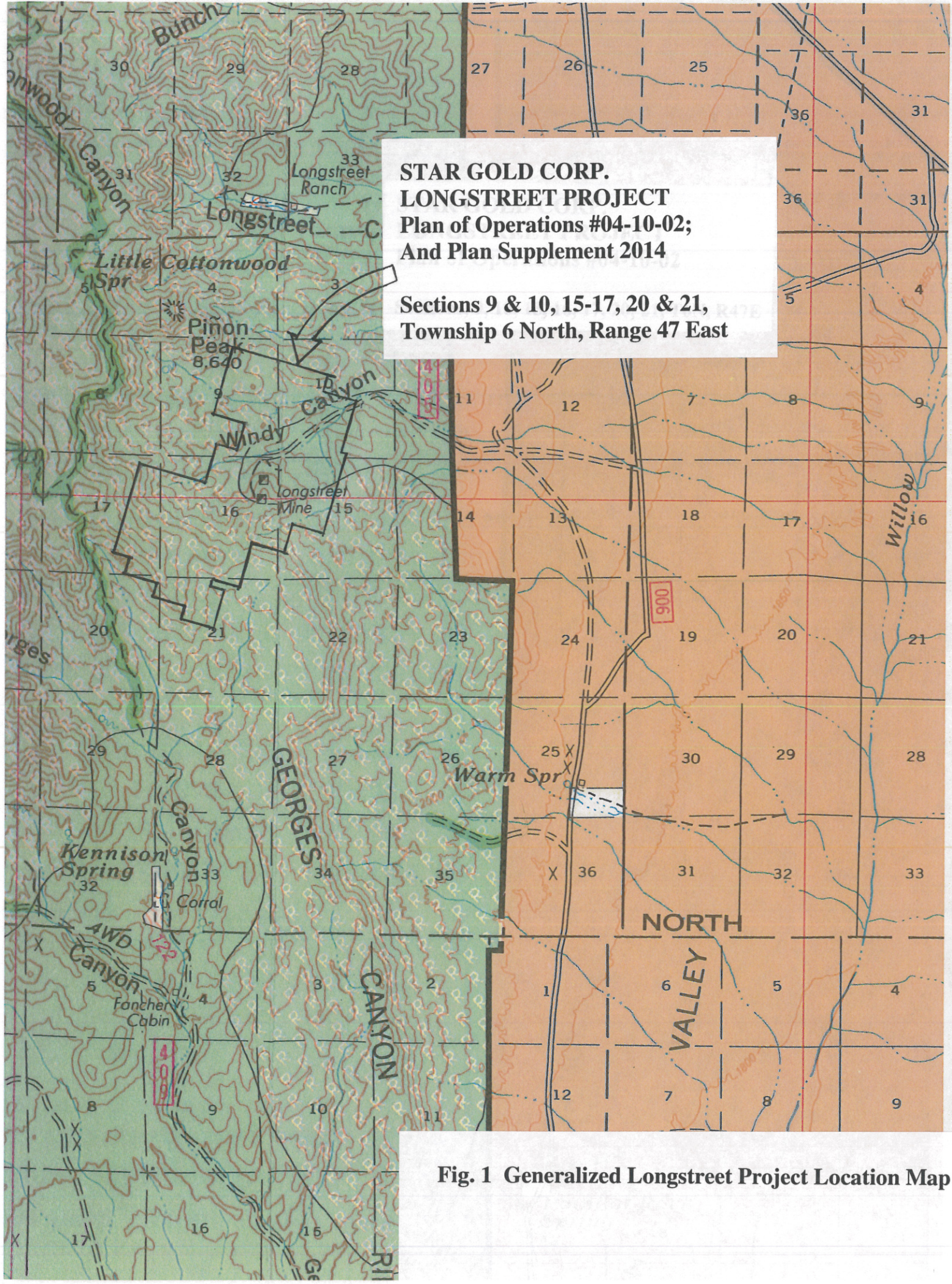

Fig. 1 Generalized Longstreet Project Location Map