



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

Humboldt-Toiyabe
National Forest

September 2014

SCOPING DOCUMENT

QUANTUM JARBIDGE EXPLORATION PROJECT

**MOUNTAIN CITY/RUBY MOUNTAINS/
JARBIDGE RANGER DISTRICTS
ELKO COUNTY, NEVADA**

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COMMENTS WELCOME

The Mountain City/Ruby Mountains/Jarbidge Ranger Districts of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest is initiating scoping and welcomes your comments on the proposed Quantum Jarbidge Project (Project) which is located within the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. The project proponent (Quantum Minerals, LLC) proposes to conduct mineral exploration activities adjacent to the town of Jarbidge, Nevada.

The Districts have 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 Mountain City/Ruby Mountains/Jarbidge Ranger Districts Office in Elko during normal business hours. Further information is also available from Douglas Powell, Geologist and Project Lead, at (775) 778-6129.

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 and some surface trenching on National Forest System (NFS) Lands in the Project Area. The statutory right of Quantum Minerals, LLC 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 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 Quantum Jarbidge Exploration Project is located adjacent to the town of Jarbidge, Nevada in all or portions of Sections 15, 16, 17, 21, and 22, Township 46 North, Range 58 East (T46N, R58E), Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, Elko County, Nevada (see location map below).

PROPOSED ACTION SUMMARY

Quantum Minerals, LLC proposes to conduct a one year exploration drilling program which would include approximately 4,000 feet of temporary road construction and drilling approximately 40 drill holes from 10 to 12 drill sites. Sumps and/or portable tanks would be used to contain drilling fluids and drill cuttings. The estimated maximum drill hole depth would be approximately 1,500 ft. Additionally, up to 500 feet of trenching is planned. It is estimated that the total surface disturbance for the project would be approximately 2.76 acres. The location map

provided below identifies the Forest Service roads and proposed temporary road that would be utilized in the Project. The drill sites and trenching would occur on and adjacent to the roads identified on this map. Environmental protection measures are proposed to avoid or minimize potential negative effects to resources surrounding and within the project area.

Reclamation would include plugging and sealing drill holes in a manner consistent with State of Nevada regulation requirements (Nevada Administrative Code 534) and Forest Service recommended practices. Drill boreholes would be plugged upon completion of the drill hole. Sumps and other areas of new disturbance would be allowed to dry, then backfilled and covered with stockpiled soil. Disturbed areas would be re-contoured to the approximate original contour of ground surfaces, and would be seeded with a Forest Service approved certified weed-free native seed mix. A portion of the reclamation bond would be held for at least three growing seasons to ensure successful re-vegetation and control of noxious weeds.

HOW TO COMMENT

Your written comments, concerns, and suggestions for this project should be sent to me, (Kathryn W. Fuell, District Ranger, Mountain City/Ruby Mountains/Jarbidge Ranger Districts) at 2035 Last Chance Road, Elko, Nevada 89801; phone (775) 738-5171, fax (775) 778-6167; or you may hand-deliver your comments during normal business hours from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays to 2035 Last Chance Road, Elko, 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-mtn-city@fs.fed.us. Please use the term "Quantum Jarbidge" in the subject line of your email.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Comments received in response to this solicitation, 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 more information on the environmental analysis process or this Project, please contact Douglas Powell, Geologist and Project Lead, at (775) 778-6129 or email johnpowell@fs.fed.us.

