



File Code: 2810

Date: November 5, 2014

Dear Interested Party:

The Tonopah Ranger District has received a Plan of Operations from Goldwedge LLC (which is managed by Scorpio Gold (US) Corporation) for minerals exploration on National Forest Service System lands, and on private land controlled by Goldwedge LLC, at the Goldwedge project site near Manhattan, Nevada. The proposed Plan of Operations (POO #04-15-01) is the Goldwedge 2014 minerals exploration project and is located in Section 13 of T8N, R43E, and Section 18 of T8N, R44E (for the parts of the project occurring on Forest Service-administered lands).

**Proposed Action:** Goldwedge LLC proposes drilling at up to 49 drill sites in the Goldwedge project area, along with up to 11 drill sites on privately controlled lands. Access to the project will be from NV Hwy 376 in Big Smoky Valley thence east on NV Hwy 377 approximately six miles to FS Road 44454 located approximately one mile west of Manhattan. Existing roads, with minor maintenance, overland travel, and the construction of up to approximately 2,800 feet of new temporary access roads will be used to access all drill 49 drill sites on FS-administered lands. Newly constructed roads will have a width of 12 feet.

Drilling will be executed using one reverse circulation (RC) drill rig and one core drill rig, operating possibly up to 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. All exploration work is anticipated to be completed within one year of active drilling from date of project approval. Most drill sites will be located within roads of off-road travel tracks on level ground so will not require a constructed drill pad. On steeper ground, some grading will be required to accommodate the drill rigs and mud sumps. Where drill pads are constructed, RC drilling will result in a pad disturbance area of approximately 50 by 80 feet; where core drilling pads are constructed, the pads will be approximately 50 by 100 feet in size. Mud sumps will be constructed at each drill site and will measure up to ten feet by five feet by five feet in depth. All sumps will be sloped to provide an escape ramp for wildlife and they will be fenced until the water in them has evaporated and no longer poses a threat to wildlife. Water for drilling will be obtained from a dewatering well currently located on the project site on FS-administered lands. Total disturbance for maintenance of existing roads, construction of new roads, and drill sites located on FS-administered lands would be about 3.2 acres. No roadless or wilderness areas are involved in this proposal.

Drilling will be conducted with tracked or rubber-tired reverse-circulation and core drill rigs. New roads and drill pads will be constructed with a CAT D7 dozer, CAT 325C excavator, and a CAT 140 M2 motor grader, or equivalent. Other vehicles to be used on the proposed project include a water truck, pipe truck, an auxiliary air compressor, and a portable light plant/generator, in addition to 4-wheel drive vehicles such as pick-up trucks.

Reclamation work would consist of plugging all drill holes per State of Nevada standards and completing seasonal maintenance/reclamation as necessary. As many as three drill holes may be left open at any one time. Final reclamation would consist of filling-in and recontouring all drill pad sites, mud pits, new road construction, and any other disturbance created in support of the project, then seeding with an approved native weed-free seed mixture. Exploration sites that are located in existing roads will be reclaimed by backfilling the sump and restoring the travel surface. Exploration sites located on off-road travel tracks will also be reclaimed by backfilling the sump, and the disturbed area will be seeded. Overland travel disturbance will be seeded, as necessary.

**Preliminary Issues and Concerns:** No issues or concerns have been identified upon initial review of the project. A cultural resource survey and a survey for Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive plant and animal species have been completed and are subject to review by FS District archaeologists and biologists. The results of these surveys will dictate whether the plan will need to be modified to minimize impacts to these resources.

**Preliminary Alternatives:** No alternatives to the proposed action, other than the No Action alternative, have been identified at this time.



The entire project area located on FS-administered lands has been classified with a Recreation Opportunity Spectrum of Roaded Natural, with Visual Quality Objectives of Modification.

A general location map is included for your information. Site-specific maps may be considered confidential, as outlined in 36 CFR 228.6. Comments submitted, as well as the names and addresses of those who comment, are considered part of the public record and will be released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

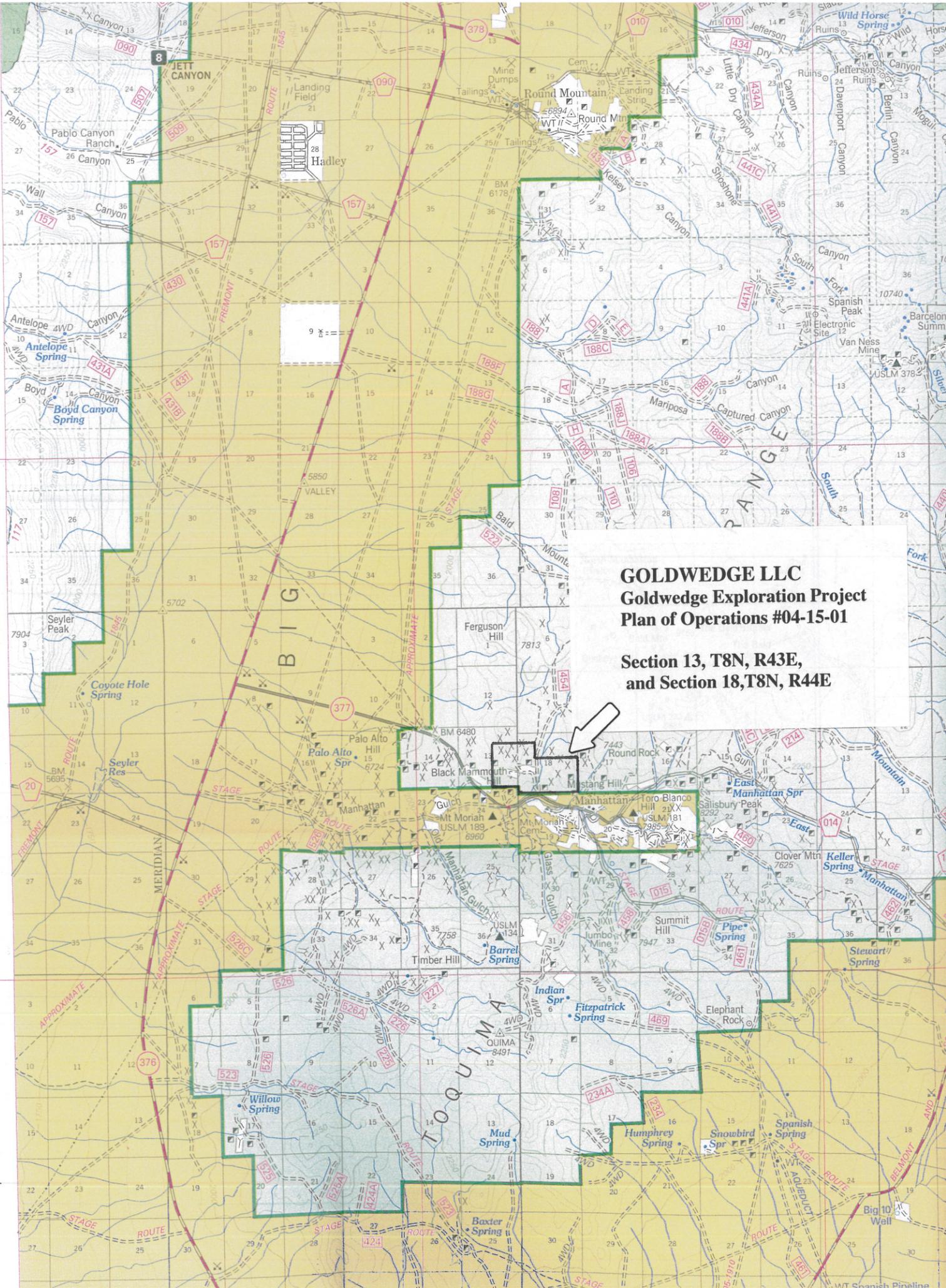
Your comments are welcome and encouraged. Please be sure to comment by **December 10, 2014**. Direct comments to: **District Ranger, Tonopah Ranger District, P.O. Box 3940, Tonopah, NV 89049**. You may contact Jim Rigby at the Tonopah Ranger District at **775-482-7887** for any additional information.

Sincerely,

  
STEVEN WILLIAMS  
District Ranger

Enclosure: map

T. 10 N.  
T. 9 N.  
T. 8 N.  
T. 7 N.



**GOLDWEDGE LLC**  
**Goldwedge Exploration Project**  
**Plan of Operations #04-15-01**  
**Section 13, T8N, R43E,**  
**and Section 18, T8N, R44E**

