



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Winnemucca District Office
Black Rock Field Office
5100 East Winnemucca Boulevard
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445
Phone: (775) 623-1500 Fax: (775) 623-1503
Email: wfoweb@blm.gov
www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo.html

DEC 30 2014 10:01:01

In Reply Refer To:
N64641
3809(NV010.38)

DEC 30 2014

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Land Management Winnemucca District (BLM) invites you to participate in the identification of issues to determine the scope for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) concerning the planned expansion of operations at the existing Hycroft Mine located approximately 55 miles west of Winnemucca in both Pershing and Humboldt Counties, Nevada.

Hycroft Resources and Development, Inc. (HRDI) submitted a Mine Plan of Operations to the BLM Black Rock Field Office detailing the proposed expansion activities. The mine is currently authorized to disturb 6,144 acres (approximately 1,784 acres of private land and 4,360 acres of public land), which was permitted based on an EIS (BLM 2012), one plan modification Environmental Assessment (EA) (BLM 2014), and one Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) (BLM 2013). Proposed changes to their operations presented under this Plan of Operations amendment would include:

- Expanding the Plan boundary to the east;
- Extending mining and processing activities until 2034;
- Increasing the rate of process water pumping until 2034;
- Constructing and operating the Northeast Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) and associated pipeline corridor and haul road;
- Constructing and operating the North Heap Leach Facility (HLF) East expansion and associated solution ponds;
- Expanding the existing Brimstone pit and mine below the measured groundwater table, between 4,210 to 2,860 feet above mean sea level;
- Conducting active dewatering of the Brimstone pit through installation and operation of dewatering wells;
- Conducting passive dewatering within the expanded pit footprint;
- Expanding the South Waste Rock Facility (WRF);
- Modifying the approved land use in the South Processing Complex area to allow the option of constructing the Southwest WRF in place of the complex if desired;
- Modifying waste backfill plans with respect to the proposed mining plan;

- Expanding haul and secondary roads around the pits, WRFs, HLFs, and TSF;
- Constructing storm water diversion, installing culverts, and other storm water controls;
- Constructing growth media stockpiles; and
- Possible construction of a solar energy installation after closure and reclamation.

Total surface disturbance related to these activities within the expanded mine boundary would be 14,909 acres on public and private lands. The attached figures show the existing and proposed mine facilities.

Also included for analysis in the EIS are two separate actions that are not part of the Modified Plan, but are crucial to the mine's continued operation:

- Constructing a 65 to 80 mile 345 kV power line to the mine site; and
- Necessary NEPA analysis and subsequent application for a Golden Eagle Conservation Plan/Take Permit.

The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the process for developing the EIS. At present, the BLM has identified the following preliminary issues: (a) The potential to create acid rock or heavy metals drainage from mining activities, and ensuring that there is no degradation of waters of the state or undue or unnecessary degradation of public lands; (b) Potential for an acidic pit lake to form after mining activities cease; (c) Potential impacts to wildlife habitat; (d) Potential impacts to cultural sites. The BLM will analyze a combination of proposed environmental measures and possible mitigation to reduce or eliminate any impacts associated with the proposed action.

As the EIS process begins, the BLM's goal is to reach out and involve the public. The first opportunity for you to participate is during the upcoming open houses for public scoping. Participants will have the opportunity to talk with resource and planning specialists and are encouraged to provide comments on the scope of the EIS and potential alternatives, to share issues and concerns, and ask questions. The BLM will consider these comments in determining the scope of the EIS, including alternatives to the proposed action. The public scoping open houses will be held at the following:

JANUARY 20, 2015, 5-7 P.M.
HYATT PLACE
1790 EAST PLUMB LANE
RENO, NEVADA

JANUARY 21, 2015, 5-7 P.M.
LOVELOCK COMMUNITY CENTER
ROCHESTER ROOM
820 6TH STREET
LOVELOCK, NEVADA

JANUARY 22, 2015, 5-7 P.M.
WINNEMUCCA CONVENTION CENTER AND VISITOR'S AUTHORITY
EAST HALL-SILVER STATE ROOM
50 WEST WINNEMUCCA BOULEVARD
WINNEMUCCA, NEVADA

Your thoughts, ideas, and comments are important to us throughout the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Please attend the open houses or send us your written comments before the scoping period closes, which is on January 29, 2015. You may submit comments using any of the following methods:

WEBSITE: <http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo.html>

E-MAIL: wfoweb@blm.gov

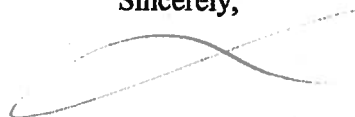
FAX: (775) 623-1503

MAIL: BLM Winnemucca District, Black Rock Field Office, 5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd.,
Winnemucca, NV 89445

The BLM will provide you an opportunity later to review the Draft EIS document. During the public review period, the BLM will conduct public meetings to accept comments on the adequacy of the Draft EIS document. Written comments will also be accepted during the review period.

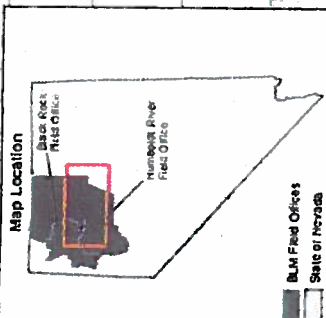
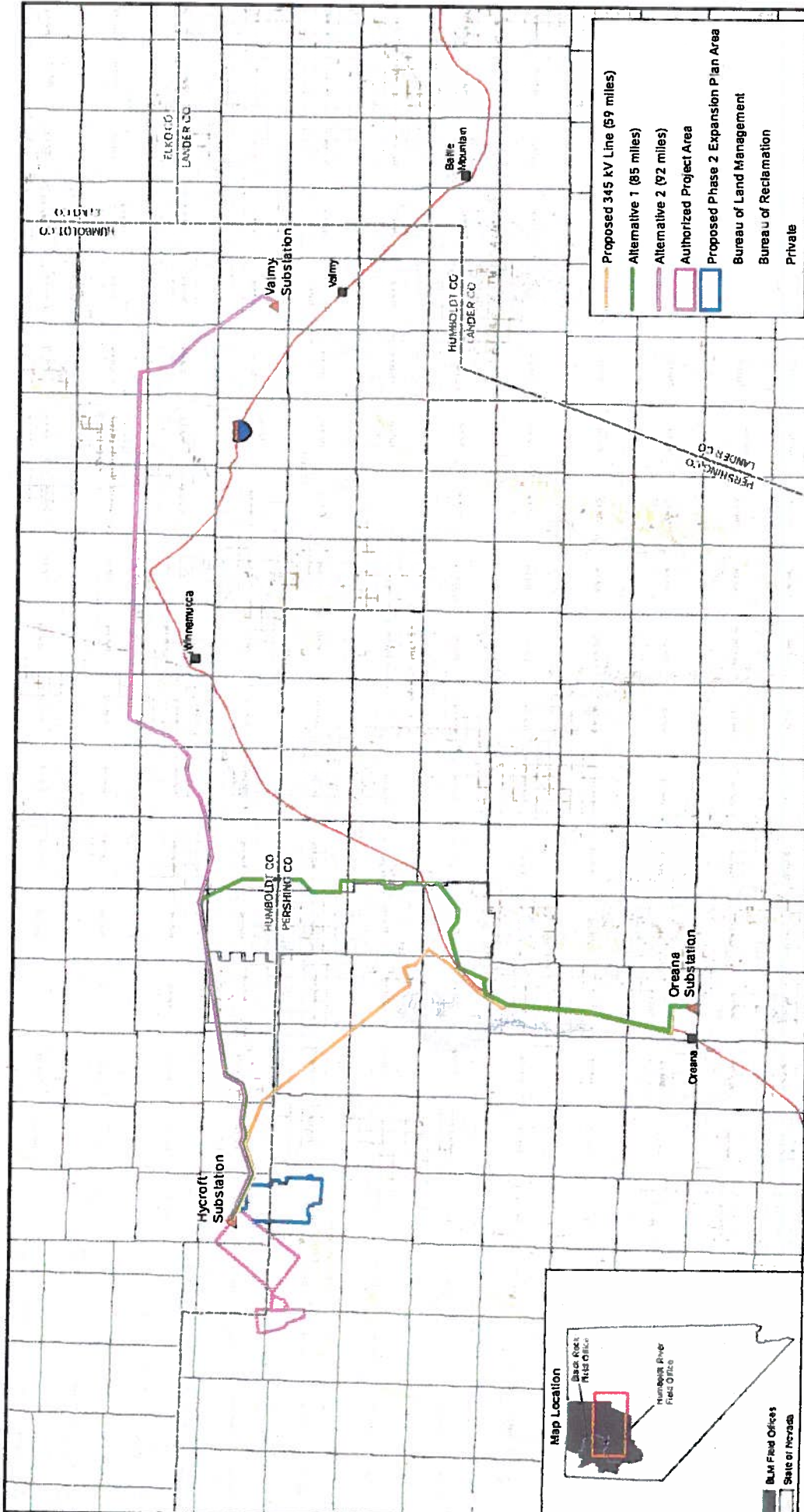
If you have any questions, please contact Ken Loda at 775-623-1500.

Sincerely,



William Mack, Jr.
Field Manager
Black Rock Field Office

Enclosures



**HYCROFT MINE
 PHASE 2 EXPANSION EIS**



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 BLM District
 Black Rock Field Office

PROJECT OVERVIEW

DRAWING NO.	FIGURE 1	REVISION NO.	A
DATE	12/23/2014		

FILED: [unclear] 12/23/2014
 PROJECT: [unclear]
 DRAWING TITLE: [unclear]

**HYCROFT MINE
PHASE 2 EXPANSION EIS**

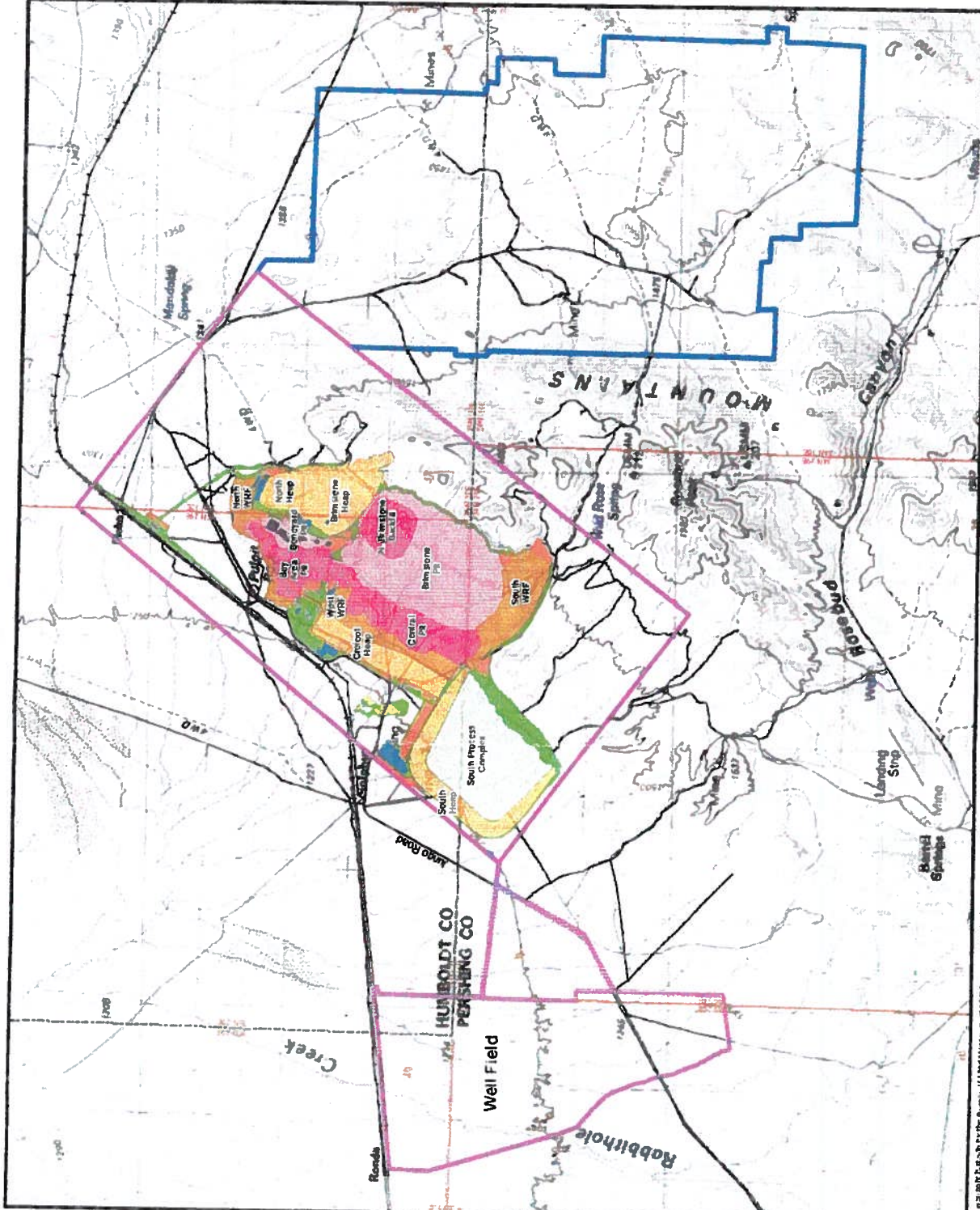
**EXISTING AND AUTHORIZED
DISTURBANCE AND FACILITIES**

FIGURE 2
REVISION NO. A
DATE: 12/23/2014

- Authorized Project Area
- Proposed Phase 2 Expansion Plan Area
- Road
- Railroad
- Existing Conveyance Ditch
- Borrow Area
- Growth Media Stockpile
- Haul Road
- Leach Pad
- Light Duty Road
- Miscellaneous
- Pit
- Pit Backfill
- Pond
- Stormwater Diversion
- Structure
- Tellings
- Waste Rock Dump



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**HYCROFT MINE
PHASE 2 EXPANSION EIS**

PROJECT TITLE: **PROPOSED DISTURBANCE
AND FACILITIES**

FIGURE NO: **FIGURE 3**

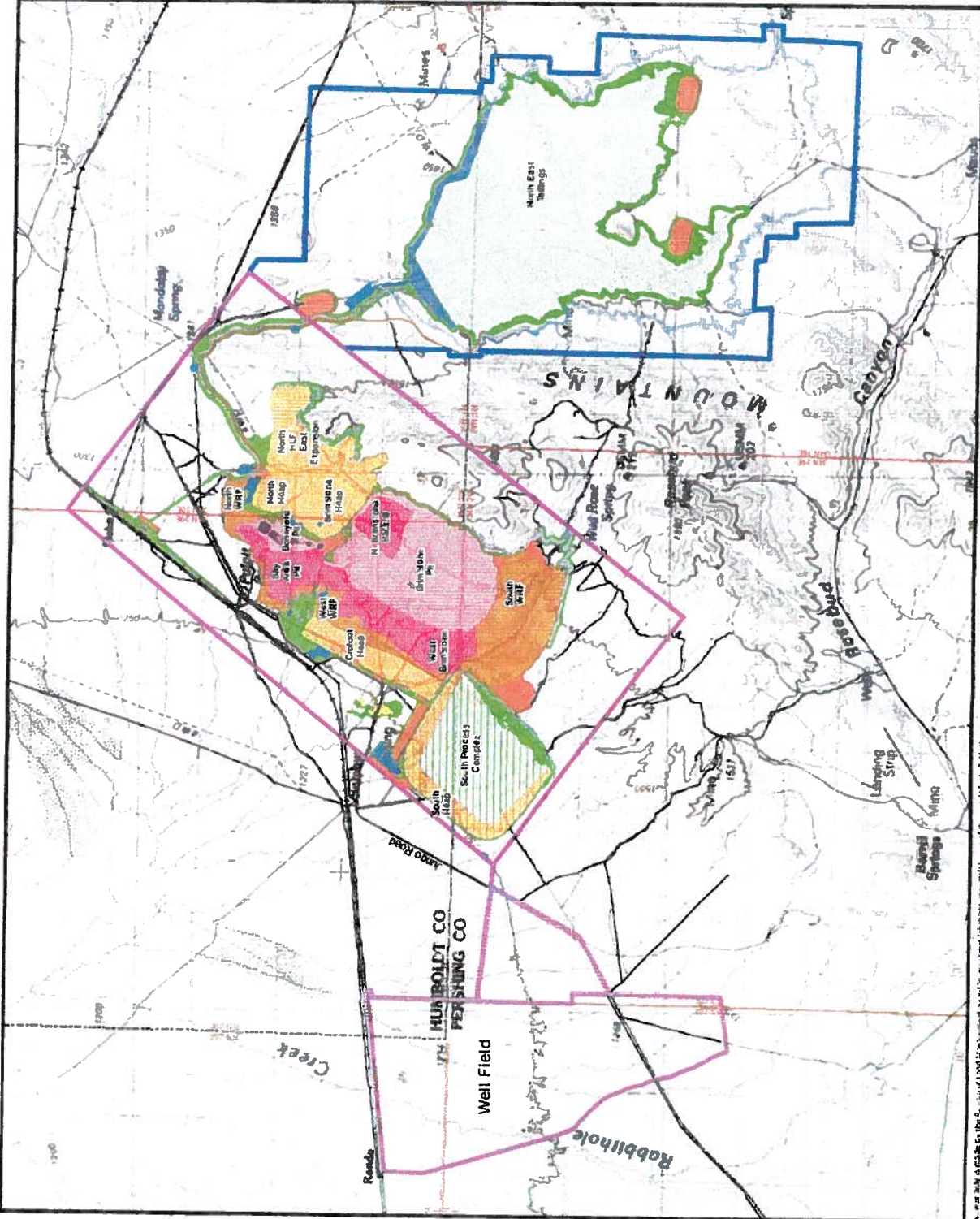
DATE: **12/23/2014**

REVISION NO: **A**

- Authorized Project Area
- Proposed Phase 2 Expansion Plan Area
- Road
- Railroad
- Proposed Conveyance Ditch
- Borrow Area
- Growth Media Stockpile
- Haul Road
- Leach Pad
- Leach Pad - Optional
- Light Duty Road
- Miscellaneous
- Pit
- PII Backfill
- Pond
- Pond (Optional)
- Stormwater Diversion
- Structure
- Tailings
- Tailings - Optional
- Tailings Dam
- Waste Rock Dump



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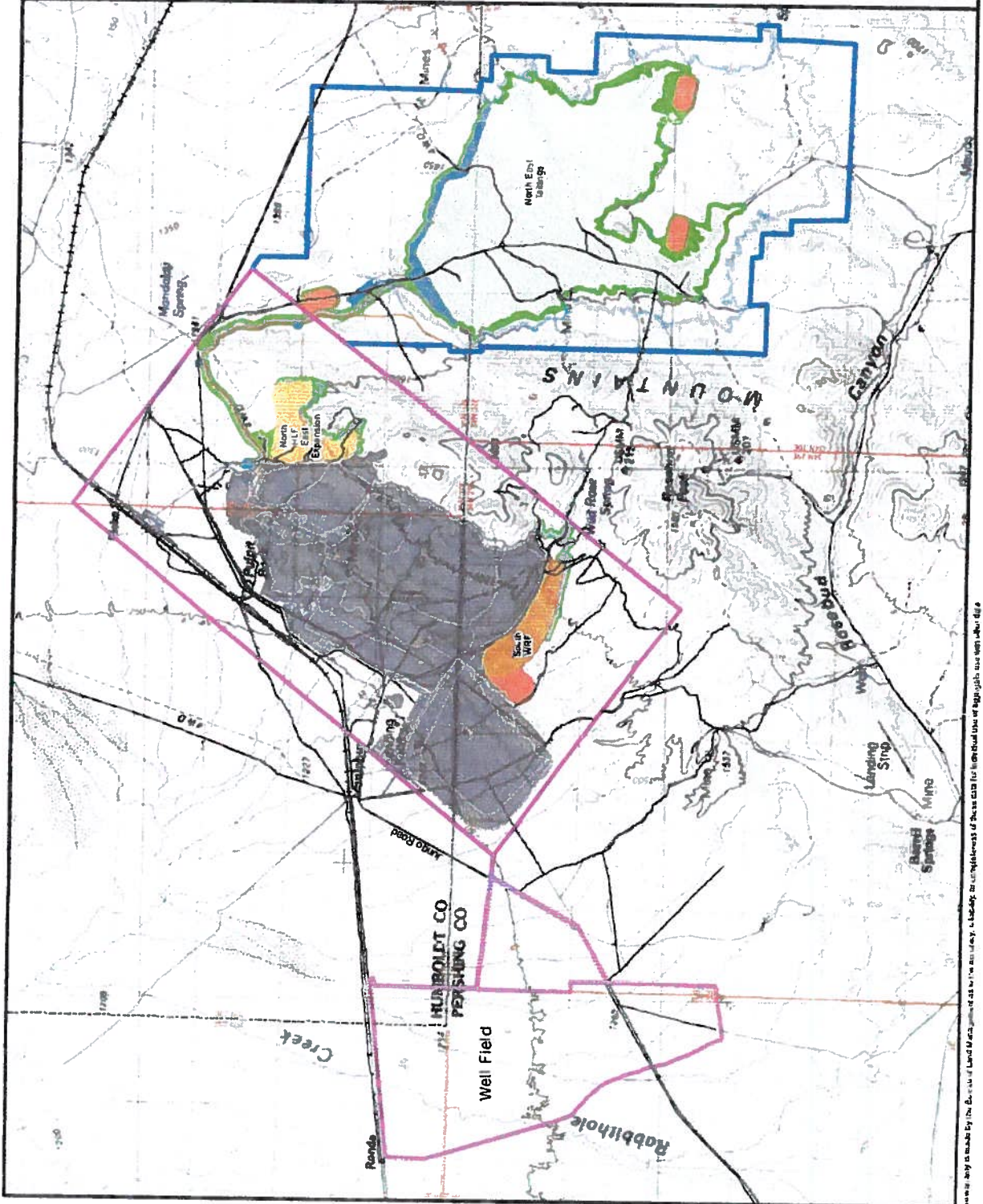


Plan X: 1/2"=1000' (Horizontal), 1"=100' (Vertical). Prepared by: [unreadable] for the BLM. All rights reserved. 2015. All other rights reserved.

**HYCROFT MINE
PHASE 2 EXPANSION EIS**

DRAWING TITLE: **PROPOSED RECONFIGURATION AND NEW FACILITIES OVER EXISTING FACILITIES - MINE PROJECT AREA**
 DRAWING NO: **FIGURE 4**
 DATE: **12/23/2014**
 SHEET: **A**

- Authorized Project Area
- Proposed Phase 2 Expansion Plan Area
- Road
- Railroad
- Proposed Conveyance Ditch
- Existing and Authorized Disturbance
- Proposed Disturbance and Facilities
- Growth Media Stockpile
- Haul Road
- Leach Pad
- Light Duty Road
- Miscellaneous
- Pond
- Stormwater Diversion
- Tailings
- Tailings Dam
- Waste Rock Dump



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