



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Winnemucca District Office
Humboldt River 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

In Reply Refer To:

N-64094

3809/3715/1792 (NV010.32)

JAN 05 2015

Dear Interested Public:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking public input as it initiates an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Newmont USA Ltd. (Newmont) proposed plan to expand operations at the existing Twin Creeks Mine. The proposal is described in Amended Plan of Operations Vista VIII. The Twin Creeks Mine is approximately 35 miles northeast of Winnemucca in Humboldt County, Nevada. A map is enclosed.

Newmont's current plan of operations boundary is approximately 13,279 acres in size. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was completed in 1997 that analyzed the consolidation and expansion of existing operations for the entire mine site. Included in that EIS analysis were additional heap leaching and processing facilities, expanded open pit mining, expanded dewatering activities, additional milling, flotation and tailings facilities, development of a pit lake, and expanded waste rock facilities. An EA completed in 2011, analyzed an expansion of the Vista Pit (Vista VII). Included in that EA analysis was a new heap leach pad, expanded open pit mining at the Vista Pit, continued dewatering activities and expanded waste rock facility.

This proposed project would further expand the existing Vista Pit toward the east and deepen the Vista Pit below historic groundwater levels resulting in a probable pit lake. The proposed expansion would include approximately 161 acres of public and private land previously within the existing plan boundary and would expand the existing pit east over existing haul road, heap leach pad and surfaces already approved for structure/buildings disturbance. The heap leach pad has already been moved and the haul road and any structures would be moved prior to pit

expansion. In addition to the expanded pit, the proposed project also includes continued dewatering of the Vista Pit, placement of waste rock on existing waste rock facilities and other areas approved for placement, using existing ore processing and refining facilities, and realignment and construction of ancillary infrastructure including haul roads, access roads and dewatering wells.

The public is invited to submit comments relative to the development of an EA within 30 days of the date of this letter. Please send written comments to Mr. Steve Sappington, project manager, at the above address, or e-mail wfoweb@blm.gov with Twin Creeks Mine Vista VIII Expansion (Sappington) in the subject line. This letter and a map are also available on the webpage at <http://on.doi.gov/1A0uPor>. In addition, a copy of the Twin Creeks Plan of Operations Amendment for Vista VIII is available for review at the Winnemucca District during regular business hours.

Public comments submitted for this modification, including names and addresses of commenters will be available for public review during regular business hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment, including personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While individuals may request that the BLM withhold personal identifying information from public review, BLM cannot guarantee it will be able to do so. If you wish us to withhold your personal information, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses available for public disclosure in their entirety.

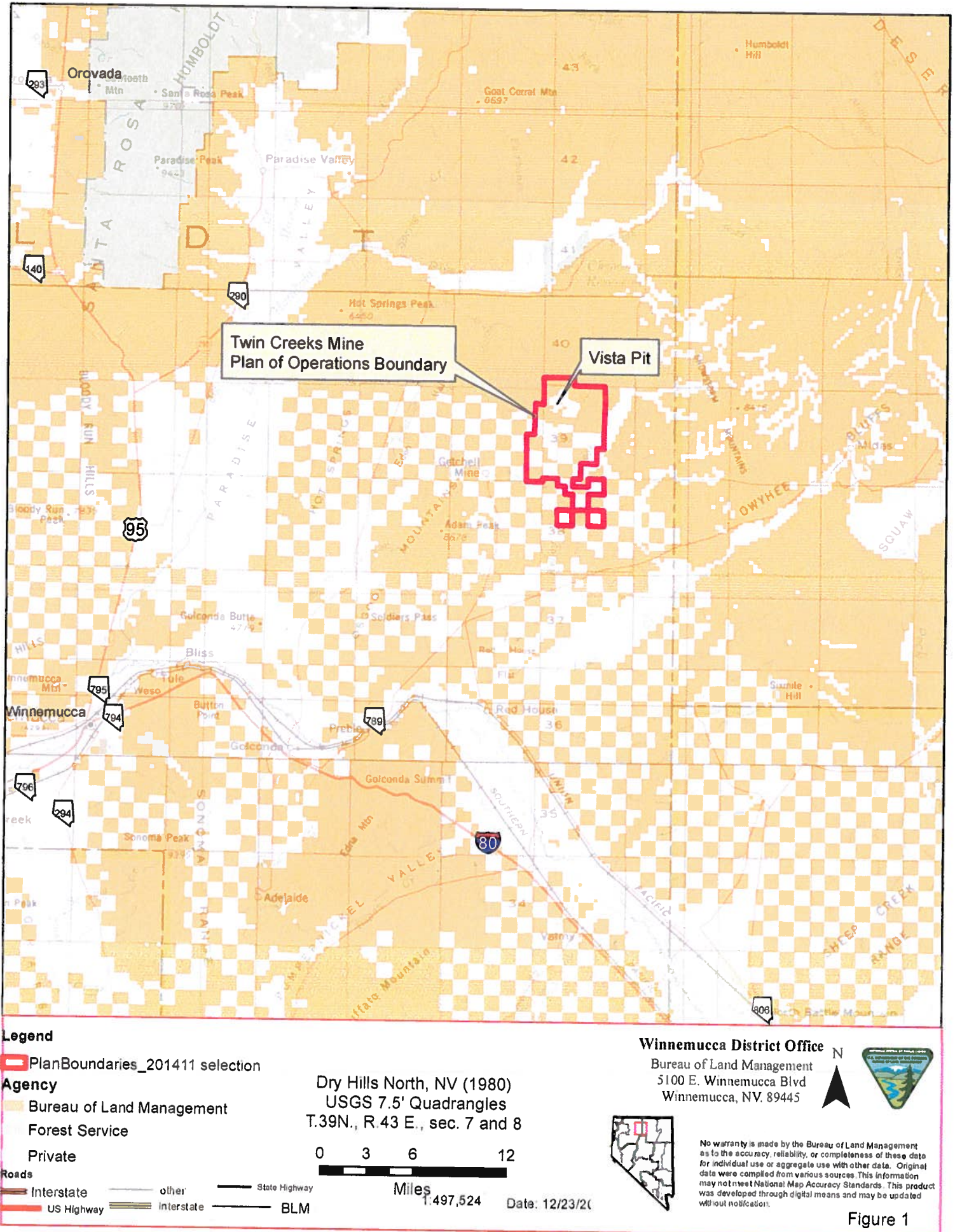
If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Steve Sappington at (775) 623-1500 or at the above address.

Sincerely,

JAMES W. SCHROEDER

James W. Schroeder
Field Manager
Humboldt River Field Office

PROPOSED TWIN CREEKS MINE VISTA 8 EXPANSION



Legend
PlanBoundaries_201411 selection

Agency
Bureau of Land Management
Forest Service
Private

Roads
Interstate
US Highway
other
State Highway
BLM

Dry Hills North, NV (1980)
USGS 7.5' Quadrangles
T.39N., R.43 E., sec. 7 and 8

0 3 6 12
Miles
1:497,524

Date: 12/23/20

Winnemucca District Office
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5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd
Winnemucca, NV. 89445



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Figure 1