

USDA



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest Service

Humboldt-Toiyabe  
National Forest

July 2017

# SCOPING DOCUMENT

## CORCORAN CANYON EXPLORATION PROJECT

AUSTIN-TONOPAH RANGER DISTRICT  
NYE COUNTY, NEVADA

## **COMMENTS WELCOME**

The Austin-Tonopah Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest is initiating scoping and welcomes your comments on the proposed Corcoran Canyon Exploration Project (Plan of Operations #03-17-02) which is located on National Forest System lands within the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. The project proponent (Resource Capital Gold Corporation.) proposes to conduct mineral exploration in the Toquima 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 Office during normal business hours. Further information is also available from Greg Van Oosbree District Geologist at (775) 482-7881.

## **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 Nevada in National Forest System (NFS) lands in the Project Area. The statutory right of Resource Capital Gold Corporation (RCG) 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 proposed project is located north of Belmont, NV on NFS land administered by the United States Forest Service (USFS) in Section 20, Township 10N North, Range 46 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian. The project will be accessed from SR 82 through Belmont, NV and USFS Road 44445 (see Figure 1).

## 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. Up to 4 truck, track, or skid-mounted, core drill rigs will be used to drill up to 4 vertical or angled holes averaging 450 ft. in depth at up to 29 constructed sites. Additionally, RCG plans to construct 2 groundwater monitoring wells with four-inch diameter steel casing to a depth of 300 ft. below the ground surface. These wells will be constructed within 2 of the existing drill site disturbance areas. Other equipment used to support drill rigs, construct road/drill sites and perform reclamation work will include:

- Two 2,000 to 3,500 gallon all terrain water trucks;
- Up to four pipe trucks;
- Up to four booster trucks;
- One Caterpillar D6, or equivalent dozer;
- Caterpillar 320 excavator and/or Case 680 backhoe (or equivalent);
- Up to four auxiliary air compressors;
- Up to four portable light plant/generators

One 4,000-gallon storage tank at the location of active drill sites will be used to trap drill cuttings and manage drilling fluids. The anticipated duration of drilling is 2-14 days per site. The proposed drill sites will be accessed via existing roads, overland travel and temporarily constructed roads. Routine maintenance of existing road will be performed as needed. Project related road disturbance will include 733 linear ft. of overland travel with a 10-ft. running width (0.17 acres disturbance) and 5,224 linear ft. of temporary road with a 12 ft. running width (1.44 acres). The proposed drill sites will measure 40 ft. wide by 70 ft. long and surface disturbance will total up to 1.86 acres of disturbance. The total disturbance associated with the proposed exploration project is 3.47 acres. Project related equipment will be stored within existing disturbance on constructed drill sites. No roadless or wilderness areas are involved in this proposal. During operations, drilling will most likely occur over 2 shifts 7 days a week. The estimated quantity of water required for drilling will be approximately 1,000 to 2,000 gallons per day. Water will be purchased from a local rancher, Belmont or Tonopah.

Reclamation will be completed to the standards described in 36 CFR 228.8(g). 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. Concurrent reclamation of drill sites will be completed to the extent practicable during operations. 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 a USFS approved native weed-free seed mixture. Overland travel disturbance will be seeded, as necessary. The USFS will be notified before the commencement of final reclamation work. Final reclamation including recontouring, ripping, and reseeding will be completed within one year from the start of construction.

## HOW TO COMMENT

Your written comments, concerns, and suggestions for this project should be sent to Lance Brown, Acting Austin-Tonopah District Ranger, Austin-Tonopah Ranger District at P.O. Box 130, Austin, NV 89310; phone (775) 482-7885 fax (775) 482-3053; 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 1400 S. Erie Main Street Tonopah, NV 89049.

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](mailto:comments-intermtn-humboldt-toiyabe-austin-tonopah@fs.fed.us).

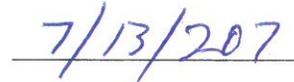
Please use the term "Corcoran Canyon Exploration Project" in the subject line of your email. To be most effective, the Forest Service should receive comments no later than **August 22<sup>th</sup>, 2017**. If requested, a copy of all comments provided in response to this letter will be made available 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 Greg Van Oosbree District Geologist at (775) 482-7881 (email address: [gvanoosbree@fs.fed.us](mailto:gvanoosbree@fs.fed.us)).



Lance Brown  
Acting Austin-Tonopah District Ranger



Date

Attachments: Figure 1 – Location Map

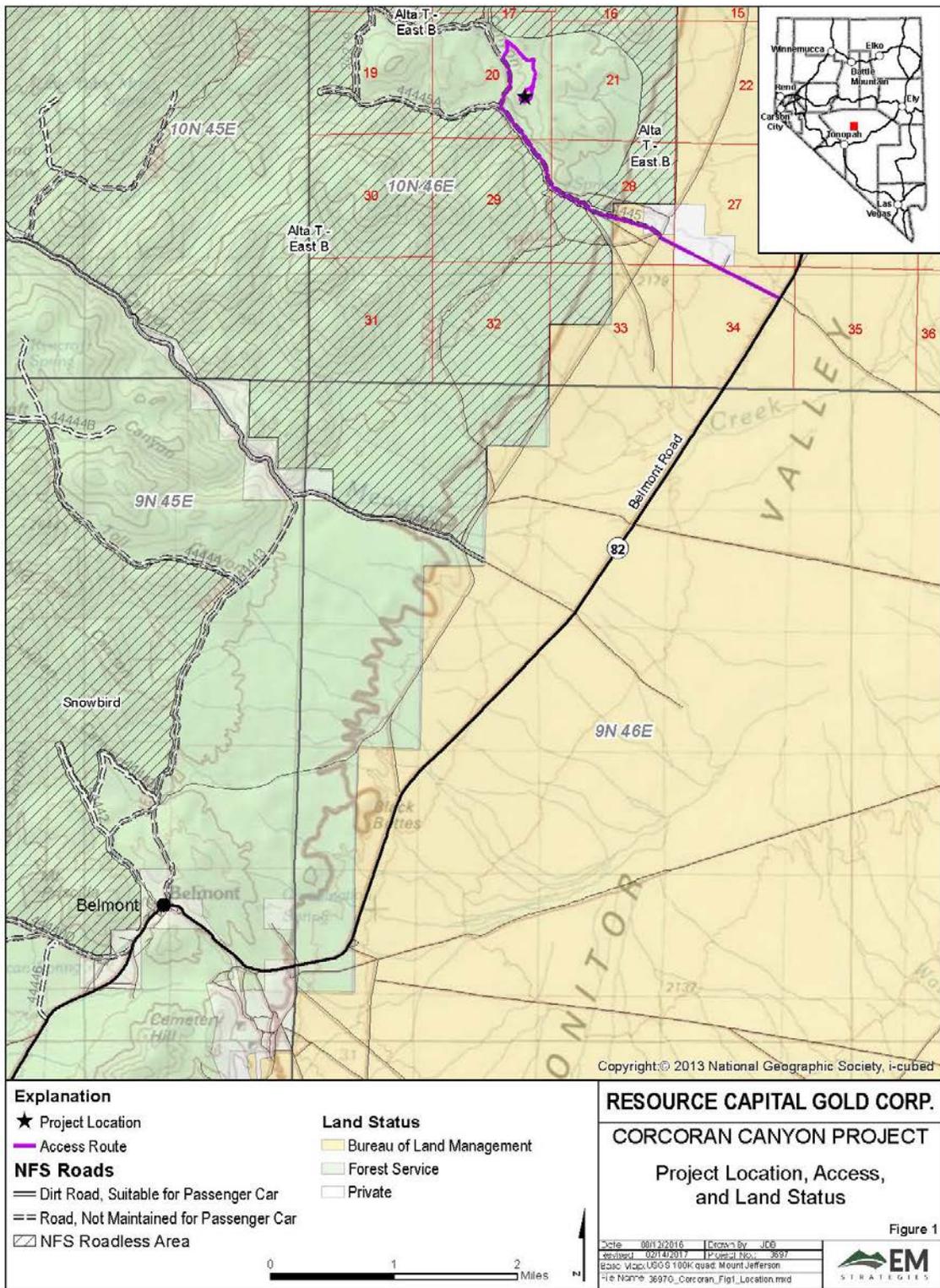


Figure 1. Corcoran Canyon Exploration Project – Location Map

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.