



United States Department of the Interior



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March 1, 2018

In Reply Refer To:

DOI-BLM-NV-W030-2015-0022-EA
3600/1792 (NV030.05)

Dear Interested Public:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Winnemucca District Office (WDO), Black Rock Field Office has prepared a Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA) which analyzes potential impacts of proposed mineral materials authorizations. "Mineral materials" are principally sand and gravel resources.

The PEA analysis and discloses the potential environmental consequences of thirteen new permits for mineral materials at eight distinct physical locations. All eight sites have existing surface disturbance areas and have been developed as gravel pits. Seven sites would receive new Free Use Permits (FUPs) for sand and gravel extraction. The FUPs would be issued to Washoe County Road Department (WCRD) for repairs and maintenance of existing roads in the region. Six of the sites would also become Community Pits and available for public purchases of mineral materials. Potential users of the Community Pits would be area business entities and the general public.

You are invited to submit substantive comments on the PEA within 30 days of the date of this letter. The PEA can be viewed at the project NEPA webpage at goo.gl/pEbDCV. Printed copies of the PEA are also available at the WDO office. Please send written comments to Duane Bays at the above address or e-mail wfoweb@blm.gov with "Washoe County - New Free Use Permit and Community Pit Designations (D. Bays)" in the subject line.

Public comments submitted for this PEA, including the name and address of the commenter, will be available for public review during regular business hours from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for federal holidays. Before including your address, phone number, or e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, please 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 the BLM to withhold your personal information, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment.

After the public review period on the PEA has ended, comments will be considered in finalizing the Environmental Assessment. If you have any questions, please contact Duane Bays, Geologist for Winnemucca District Office, at (775) 623-1525 or at dbays@blm.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Dr. Mark E. Hall

Dr. Mark Hall
Field Manager
Black Rock Field Office