It is the mission of the Bureau of Land Management to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.
INTRODUCTION
Walker Lane Minerals Corporation (WLMC), a wholly owned subsidiary of Gold Resource Corporation, is proposing to develop an open-pit mine and cyanide heap leach facility. The proposed mine site and processing facilities are to be located in the Santa Fe Mining District.

Proposed components of the Project include:

- open pit area encompassing three ore bodies
- oxide ore stockpile
- crushing and screening facility
- leach pad divided into two cells
- pregnant pond to be converted to ET cell
- barren/stormwater pond to be converted to ET cell
- three diesel powered electric generators
- 2 fuel yard
- adsorption-desorption-recovery plant (ADR Plant)
- office and lab facilities
- 2 completed production water wells
- 2 contingent production water well
- monitoring wells
- raw water storage tank
- equipment maintenance shop
- waste rock dump
- two sanitary leach fields
- haulage and access roads
- growth medium stockpile (heap perimeter berm)
- growth medium (colluvium) borrow site
- decomposed and weathered granitic rock borrow and stockpile
- fencing and gates
- sulfide ore storage area and leachate sump
- contingent exploration roads and drill pads
Current plans call for WLMC to mine and process an approximate average of 93,200 tons of ore per month over a period of 36 months including approximately 3 months of pre-production development and construction and 3 months of residual leaching. The mine will be in operation 24 hours per day, 7 days per week (24/7) for the duration of the Project.

The expected life of the mine is 3 years from the start of pre-production development to the initiation of final reclamation. Additional mineralized zones may exist within an economic haulage distance of the proposed processing facilities. Mine life could be extended if exploration efforts identify additional resources.

This Proposed Action includes one mine pit, no part of which will be visible from public roadways. The mine waste rock dump and heap which will be visible from public access roads will be constructed with 3(H):1(V) slopes. Reclamation of portions of the waste rock dump will progress during mine production. All disturbed surfaces, both existing and those to be created by the proposed operations except for the mine pit, will be contoured, covered with growth medium and re-vegetated upon the completion of operations. Total anticipated new surface disturbance for the Project, including the mine pits, is 292.9 acres, all of which is on public land.

BACKGROUND

The EA was scoped internally by BLM resource specialists in February 2011 and updated in January 2018. BLM resources specialists identified the supplemental authorities and other resources and uses to be addressed in the EA. The following specific issues related to the Proposed Action were identified as present/potentially affected: air quality, invasive, non-native species, migratory birds, water quality, access, BLM sensitive species, general wildlife, land uses and authorizations, minerals and geology, public health and safety, socioeconomics, soils, vegetation, and visual resources.

The potential environmental impacts from the Proposed Action, No Action and other Alternatives were evaluated in EA# DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2018-0007-EA. Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts detailed in the EA, it was determined that the impacts associated with the Proposed Action are not considered significant and therefore an environmental impact statement (EIS) will not be prepared. This is documented in the attached Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Details of the Proposed Action within the project area are specified in the final Plan of Operations submitted to the BLM Stillwater Field Office in April 2018.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The EA was scoped internally by BLM resource specialists in February 2011 and externally scoped to the public from March 15 through April 15, 2011. Five letters and four telephone calls were received by the BLM, the following issues and concerns were identified:

- Wildlife—Potential disturbance of habitat for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, and desert bighorn sheep
- Special status species—Proximity of disturbance to a known prairie falcon nest
- Springs—The impact of mining on springs and associated wildlife
• Public access and vested rights-of-way—The status of public access to surrounding areas for recreation
• Level of NEPA analysis—What criteria were used to determine that the preparation of an EA would be appropriate, as opposed to a full environmental impact statement
• Transportation of ore—Plans to evaluate the impacts of the transportation of ore on off-site facilities
• Water resources—Waste and ore rock characterization and potential impacts on Waters of the United States
• Cultural resources—Request for complete examination of the site for archaeological and cultural resources
• Water rights—Two claims of vested water rights for stockwater use in the area
• Recreation—Requests by various off-road race organizers to control cross traffic during race day

Comments on the Proposed Action were requested by WLMC and BLM using the State of Nevada Department of Administration Clearing House. Issues originally identified from the agency comments were concern for water quality, wildlife (including special status species), habitat, recreation, nearby spring monitoring, and quantity and quality reporting.

The project was presented at a Mineral County Commissioners Meeting on March 2, 2011. Coordination with the tribes has occurred on the location of the proposed project since September 2009.

The EA was made available for a 30-day public review and comment period on March 23, 2018 until April 22, 2018. The EA was made available by hard copy at the Carson City District Office and electronic on the Carson City’s District webpage. During the public review and comment period of the EA, 19 comments submissions were received. Comments were received from Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), Nevada State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Minor changes were made to the Final EA document for clarification purposes based on comments received during the comment period. All comments were reviewed and considered. Substantive comments were utilized to finalize the EA as appropriate.

BLM’s review of public comments indicated that no substantive changes to the conclusions presented in the preliminary EA were warranted. Comments led to changes in the document to better explain and clarify BLM’s analysis. This resulted in a more comprehensive and complete document. In finalizing the EA, the following information was revised:

• Updated mammals list to include kit fox (vulpes macrotis), bobcat (lynx rufus) ad reptile
  Great basin rattlesnake (crotalus viridis lutosus)
• Removed Gambels quail from potential to occur list
• Added common poorwill and Canyon wren on potential to occur list
• Updated raptor and owl buffers in Chapter 3
• Added NDOW mine survey results to Chapter 3
• Revised adit and shaft information in Chapter 3
DECISION
As a result of the analysis presented in the Walker Lane Minerals Corp. Isabella Pearl Project EA# DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2018-0007-EA, and after carefully considering the comments and input received from the public, it is my decision to:

Approve the Walker Lane Minerals Corp. Isabella Pearl Project as proposed and analyzed. This management decision for the Walker Lane Minerals Corp. Isabella Pearl Project is issued pursuant to 43 CFR 3809 and 43 CFR 3715.

Approval of the Isabella Pearl Project by the BLM does not constitute a determination regarding the validity or ownership of any unpatented mining claims. Walker Lane Minerals Corp. is responsible for obtaining any use rights or local, state or federal permits, licenses or reviews that may be required before operations begin.

The rationale for the attached FONSI supports this decision. The Proposed Action coupled with operating, environmental mitigation and reclamation measures detailed in the EA have led to my decision that all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm have been adopted and that unnecessary or undue degradation of the public lands will not result. This decision is consistent with the 2001 Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan.

In Chapter 2, as part of the Proposed Action, WLMC would implement the Environmental Protection Measures in section 2.1.6. WLMC would work with NDOW for bat use in the project area. Before any construction work near bat roosting habitat begins, an experienced biologist would survey the area for potential bat habitat, with protocols approved by the BLM and NDOW. They would follow these measures proposed to protect BLM sensitive bat species.

WLMC will work with NDOW to acquire the required artificial pond permit that addresses netting for ponds and sumps, and monitoring, reporting requirements as discussed in the EA.

WLMC needs to comply with all county, state, and federal regulations and permits.

The BLM approval of the Plan will be subject to operating, reclamation and monitoring measures proposed by Walker Lane Minerals Corp. in the mining plan, the performance standards set forth in 43 CFR 3809, and additional BLM measures set forth in the Final EA.

RATIONALE
Upon analyzing the impacts of the Proposed Action and following issuance of the EA for public review, I have determined that implementing the Proposed Action will not have a significant impact to the human environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required. Refer to the attached FONSI.

AUTHORITY
The Proposed Action is in conformance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, the CRMP adopted in 2001 and with current BLM policies, plans and
programs. The Proposed Action is consistent in relationship to statutes, regulations and policies of neighboring local, County, State, Tribal governments and other Federal agencies.


The Plan in combination the attached FONSI show that all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm have been adopted and that unnecessary or undue degradation of the public lands will not occur as a result of the mining activities at the Walker Lane Minerals Corp. Isabella Pearl Project.

APPROVAL
The Walker Lane Minerals Corp. Isabella Pearl Project DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2018-0007-EA and associated mine plan as proposed and analyzed are approved for implementation. This decision is effective upon issuance in accordance with Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 3809 and 3715.

This Decision is in conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) as amended (72 USC 4321 et.seq.); Section 302 of the Federal Land Management Policy Act of 1976 (FLPMA); Section 304 of the FLPMA and 43 CFR Part 3809- Surface Management Regulations for Mining and 43 CFR Part 3715- Use and Occupancy under the Mining Laws.

Kenneth R. Colburn
Field Manager
Stillwater Field Office

5/4/18
Date
APPEAL PROCEDURES
If you wish to appeal this decision, it may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with 43 CFR Part 4. If you appeal, your appeal must also be filed with the Bureau of Land Management at the following address:

Kenneth R. Collum,
Stillwater Field Manager
BLM, Carson City District Office
5665 Morgan Mill Road
Carson City, NV 89701

Your appeal must be filed within thirty (30) days from receipt or issuance of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition pursuant to regulation 43 CFR 4.21 (58 FR 4942, January 19, 1993) for a stay (suspension) of the decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for stay must accompany your notice of appeal.

Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to:

Board of Land Appeals
Dockets Attorney
801 N. Quincy Street, Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22203

A copy must also be sent to the appropriate office of the Solicitor at the same time the original documents are filed with the above office.

U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of the Regional Solicitor
Pacific Southwest Region
2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1712
Sacramento, CA 95825

If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
2. The likelihood of the appellants' success on the merits.
3. The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted.
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

The Office of Hearings and Appeals regulations do not provide for electronic filing of appeals, therefore they will not be accepted.