

Bald Mountain Mine

North and South Operations Area Projects Environmental Impact Statement Volume I – Cover through Section 3.13 Final

Casefile NVN - 082888 and 090443



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Ely District Office, Egan Field Office
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Ely, Nevada 89301-9408

Cooperating Agencies:

Eureka County Board of Commissioners
Nevada Department of Wildlife
State of Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Program
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
White Pine County Commission

2016



BLM Mission Statement

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.

BLM/NV/EL/ES/15-03+1792

**Final
Environmental Impact Statement
Bald Mountain Mine North and South Operations Area Projects**

Lead Agency: U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Ely District - Egan Field Office

Cooperating Agencies: Nevada Department of Wildlife
Eureka County Board of Commissioners
White Pine County Commission
Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Program
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Counties Directly Affected: Elko, Eureka, and White Pine, Nevada

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Date by Which Comments Must
be Received by the BLM: Within 30 days of the date the Notice of Availability is published
in the Federal Register

ABSTRACT

This Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) analyzes potential impacts associated with Barrick Gold U.S. Inc.'s proposed Bald Mountain Mine North and South Operations Area Projects, in White Pine County, Nevada, on lands managed by the Ely District, Egan Field Office of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Prior to completion of the EIS process, Barrick completed the sale of the BMM to Kinross Gold Corporation. The Final EIS has retained the name of Barrick in the document, but Kinross is the new operator of the BMM and proponent of the project.

The proposed project lies within the Bald Mountain Mining District in the southern Ruby, Buck, Bald, and Little Bald mountains of northeastern Nevada, approximately 65 air miles northwest of Ely and 25 air miles northeast of Eureka, Nevada. The proposed project would expand existing gold mining operations to include the following activities: modification and development of open pits; modification and development of rock disposal areas; modification and development of heap leach facilities (HLFs) and associated process facilities; modification and development of power lines and substations; modification of existing support facilities and development of new support facilities; improvement to existing roads and rerouting of public access; continuation of exploration drilling activities within the proposed Plan of Operations (PoO) boundaries; development of a transportation utility corridor to connect the proposed South Operations Area (SOA) and North Operations Area (NOA) projects; modification of the Regional Exploration PoO boundary to remove overlap with the proposed NOA and SOA projects boundaries; and other administrative actions.

The proposed project would create approximately 7,097 acres of surface disturbance on public land administered by the BLM. The proposed project would have a mine life of 20 years for mining and ore processing. Upon completion of mining activities, the majority of the operation would be reclaimed.

Three alternatives in addition to the Proposed Action were analyzed in detail in the Draft and Final EISs: the North and South Operations Area Facilities Reconfiguration Alternative, the North Operations Area Western Redbird Modification Alternative, and the No Action Alternative.

The BLM is responsible for administering mineral rights access on certain federal lands as authorized by the General Mining Law of 1872. The BLM Egan Field Office has the responsibility and authority to manage the surface and subsurface resources on public lands located within the Egan Resource Area. The BLM must review the PoO to ensure use of public land in the Egan Resource Area is in conformance with BLM's Surface Management Regulations (43 Code of Federal Regulations 3809) and other applicable statutes, including the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 (as amended).

Responsible Official for the EIS: Jill A. Moore
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