

## BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA

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**From:** Sievers, Colleen J  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 05, 2012 3:11 PM  
**To:**   
**Cc:** BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA  
**Subject:** Carson City BLM - United Comstock Merger Mill at American Flat EA

Good Afternoon

On Thursday December 6, 2012, the Carson City BLM will release the United Comstock Merger Mill at American Flat Environmental Assessment (EA) for a 45-day public review. A press release will be issued and notifications will be made to interested publics.

The EA and associated documents will be available via a link on the Carson City BLM website. [http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson\\_city\\_field.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field.html)

Regards,  
*Colleen Sievers*  
*Project Manager*  
*BLM Carson City District*  
*5665 Morgan Mill Rd.*  
*Carson City, NV 89701*  
*775.885.6168 work*  
*775.290.0167 cell*

## BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA

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**From:** Rebecca Palmer <rlpalmer@shpo.nv.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 05, 2012 4:28 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA  
RE: Carson City BLM - United Comstock Merger Mill at American Flat EA

Thank you very much for the update to the status of the Environmental Assessment.

Rebecca Lynn Palmer

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Sievers, Colleen J [<mailto:csievers@blm.gov>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 05, 2012 3:11 PM

[REDACTED]

**Subject:** Carson City BLM - United Comstock Merger Mill at American Flat EA

Good Afternoon

On Thursday December 6, 2012, the Carson City BLM will release the United Comstock Merger Mill at American Flat Environmental Assessment (EA) for a 45-day public review. A press release will be issued and notifications will be made to interested publics.

The EA and associated documents will be available via a link on the Carson City BLM website. [http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson\\_city\\_field.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field.html)

Regards,  
*Colleen Sievers*  
*Project Manager*  
*BLM Carson City District*  
*5665 Morgan Mill Rd.*  
*Carson City, NV 89701*  
*775.885.6168 work*  
*775.290.0167 cell*

## **BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 06, 2012 3:13 PM  
**To:** BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA  
**Cc:** Neal Dach  
**Subject:** I Support Alternative 1, No action

The United Comstock Merger Mill should be preserved for future generations. Please allow it to be transformed into an interpretive center that is safe and educational. Please honor and preserve Nevada History! Please follow through on Alternative 1 of the Environmental Assessment, no action.

Thank you,  
Neal Anthony Dach

## BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 08, 2012 7:16 AM  
**To:** BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA  
**Cc:** Sievers, Colleen J; Buttazoni, Brian L  
**Subject:** Re: BLM Releases Environmental Assessment for 45-days Public Review for the United Comstock Merger Mill at American Flat

Hi all,

I just want to make you aware of a critical typo in the Signed Dear Reader Letter attachment. The email address for public comment is wrong.

It reads "[AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov](mailto:AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov)".

It should read, "[AmericanFlat\\_EA@blm.gov](mailto:AmericanFlat_EA@blm.gov)".

The first email bounces. I already had the second email from previous correspondence. Please confirm if this is correct.

Thank you,  
Neal

On Wed, Dec 5, 2012 at 7:54 PM, BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA  
<[BLM\\_NV\\_CCDO\\_AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_NV_CCDO_AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov)> wrote:

Today the BLM has released an environmental assessment for the United Comstock Merger Mill at American Flat. Please read the attached letter for more information.

Brian L. Buttazoni

*NEPA Specialist*

Sierra Front Field Office

775-885-6000

775-885-6147 (fax)

## BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 08, 2012 8:59 AM  
**To:** BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Proposed demolition of the United Comstock Merger Mill remains in American Flat

To: Brian Buttazoni, BLM Sierra Front Field Office  
Re: Proposed demolition of the United Comstock Merger Mill remains in American Flat  
Ref: Letter 1620 (NVC0200)

In regards to demolition of this structure, many people, including myself, consider this as part of the history of the area. There has already been more than enough historic structures and landmarks in the region lost forever through demolition and neglect and so to have another one eliminated, and with taxpayer's money no less, is foolish. For the estimated costs of demolition, the money could instead go towards the site being cleaned up, secured with a robust perimeter fence and to add informational and warning signage.

Regards,  
Doug Elmer, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

## BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 08, 2012 9:26 AM  
**To:** BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA  
**Subject:** Letter 1620

The referenced email address is missing the underscore spacer. It should be: [AmericanFlat\\_EA@blm.gov](mailto:AmericanFlat_EA@blm.gov)

## BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 10, 2012 9:00 AM  
**To:** BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA  
**Cc:** Neal Dach  
**Subject:** Re: BLM Releases Environmental Assessment for 45-days Public Review for the United Comstock Merger Mill at American Flat

Sure thing. Happy to help!

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 10, 2012, at 11:37 AM, BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA  
<[BLM\\_NV\\_CCDO\\_AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_NV_CCDO_AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov)> wrote:

The project website and press release have been corrected. Thank you for calling this to our attention.

Brian L. Buttazoni  
*NEPA Specialist*  
Sierra Front Field Office  
775-885-6004  
775-885-6147 (fax)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 08, 2012 7:16 AM  
**To:** BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA  
**Cc:** Sievers, Colleen J; Buttazoni, Brian L  
**Subject:** Re: BLM Releases Environmental Assessment for 45-days Public Review for the United Comstock Merger Mill at American Flat

Hi all,

I just want to make you aware of a critical typo in the Signed Dear Reader Letter attachment. The email address for public comment is wrong.

It reads "[AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov](mailto:AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov)".

It should read, "[AmericanFlat\\_EA@blm.gov](mailto:AmericanFlat_EA@blm.gov)".

The first email bounces. I already had the second email from previous correspondence. Please confirm if this is correct.

Thank you,  
Neal

On Wed, Dec 5, 2012 at 7:54 PM, BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA  
<[BLM\\_NV\\_CCDO\\_AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_NV_CCDO_AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov)> wrote:



CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA, BLM\_NV <blm\_nv\_ccdo\_americanflatea@blm.gov>

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## SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE 1, NO ACTION

1 message

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**Brandon Hopkins** [REDACTED]

Thu, Dec 13, 2012 at 7:53 PM

To: BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA <BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov>

The United Comstock Merger Mill should be preserved for future generations. Please allow it to be transformed into an interpretive center that is safe and educational. Please honor and preserve Nevada History. Please follow through on Alternative 1 of the Environmental Assessment, no action.

Thank you,

Brandon Hopkins

—

Brandon James Hopkins [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA, BLM\_NV <blm\_nv\_ccdo\_americanflatea@blm.gov>

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## I SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE 1, NO ACTION

1 message

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**Lisa Boes** [REDACTED]

Thu, Dec 13, 2012 at 8:14 PM

To: BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA <BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov>

The United Comstock Merger Mill should be preserved for future generations. Please allow it to be transformed into an interpretive center that is safe and educational. Please honor and preserve Nevada History! Please follow through on Alternative 1 of the Environmental Assessment, no action.

Thank you,

Lisa Boes  
[REDACTED]



CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA, BLM\_NV <blm\_nv\_ccdo\_americanflatea@blm.gov>

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## I SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE 1, NO ACTION

1 message

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**Jamie Ciocco** [REDACTED]

Fri, Dec 14, 2012 at 1:14 AM

To: BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA <BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov>

The United Comstock Merger Mill should be preserved for future generations. Please allow it to be transformed into an interpretive center that is safe and educational. This will both honor and preserve Nevada History, and provide a great asset to the community.

I hope you will follow through on Alternative 1 of the Environmental Assessment, no action.

Sincerely,  
Jamie Ciocco



CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA, BLM\_NV <blm\_nv\_ccdo\_americanflatea@blm.gov>

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## I SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE 1, NO ACTION

1 message

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Dach, Marie [REDACTED]

Fri, Dec 14, 2012 at 6:14 AM

To: BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA <BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov>

The United Comstock Merger Mill should be preserved for future generations. Please allow it to be transformed into an interpretive center that is safe and educational. Please honor and preserve Nevada History! Please follow through on Alternative 1 of the Environmental Assessment, no action.

Thank you,

Marie

--

L. Marie Dach

[REDACTED]



CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA, BLM\_NV <blm\_nv\_ccdo\_americanflatea@blm.gov>

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## I SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE 1, NO ACTION

1 message

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**Erin M Nelson** [REDACTED]

Fri, Dec 14, 2012 at 6:32 AM

To: BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA <BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov>

To Whom It May Concern,

The United Comstock Merger Mill should be preserved for future generations. Please allow it to be transformed into an interpretive center that is safe and educational. Please honor and preserve Nevada History! Please follow through on Alternative 1 of the Environmental Assessment, no action. Thank you for your time in reevaluating the previous decision.

Thank you,

Erin M Nelson



CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA, BLM\_NV <blm\_nv\_ccdo\_americanflatea@blm.gov>

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## I SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE 1, NO ACTION

1 message

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Chelsea Link [REDACTED]

Fri, Dec 14, 2012 at 10:05 AM

To: BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA <BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov>

Hello,

The United Comstock Merger Mill should be preserved for future generations. Please allow it to be transformed into an interpretive center that is safe and educational. Please honor and preserve Nevada History! Please follow through on Alternative 1 of the Environmental Assessment, no action.

Thank you,  
Chelsea Link



CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA, BLM\_NV <blm\_nv\_ccdo\_americanflatea@blm.gov>

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## American Flat demolition

1 message

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Eileen Angelucci [REDACTED]

Fri, Dec 14, 2012 at 10:56 AM

To: BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA <BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov>

I want to voice my concern about the plans to demolish the American Flat Mill. I believe that this is an absolute treasure and that the "powers that be" should explore every avenue to save it in some manner while still making it safe. In my opinion, and I have talked to some of the archeologists in the area who agree, the site could be made into a tourist attraction fairly inexpensively - remove the brush, the graffiti, and garbage that is strewn about; place a very tall chain link fence around the major buildings; and provide walkways/paths by the various buildings with good signage to explain how each of the buildings were used at one time. Areas within the buildings that are unsafe, such as holes in floors, could be covered securely in the rare case that someone should figure out how to get in.

It is a tourist attraction for everyone that visits me. We always take them there and our visitors marvel at the vastness of this site and how interesting it is. It whets everyone's appetite for knowledge of the site. The V&T tours could also speak about the site and have shuttle buses to and from the site. A reasonable charge to view the site would help with the costs of cleaning up and maintaining it.

Please consider saving this treasure of the west.

Eileen [REDACTED]



CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA, BLM\_NV <blm\_nv\_ccdo\_americanflatea@blm.gov>

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**Subject: I SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE 1, NO ACTION**

1 message

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**My Ngoc To** [REDACTED] Fri, Dec 14, 2012 at 12:54 PM  
To: BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA <BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov>

Hi there,

I believe the United Comstock Merger Mill should be preserved for future generations. Please allow it to be transformed into an interpretive center that is safe and educational. Please honor and preserve Nevada History! Please follow through on Alternative 1 of the Environmental Assessment, no action.

Thank you,  
My Ngoc



CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA, BLM\_NV <blm\_nv\_ccdo\_americanflatea@blm.gov>

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## I SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE 1, NO ACTION

1 message

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Julia Glenn [REDACTED]

Sun, Dec 16, 2012 at 9:22 PM

To: BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA <BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov>

Hello,

The United Comstock Merger Mill should be preserved for future generations. Please allow it to be transformed into an interpretive center that is safe and educational. Please honor and preserve Nevada History! Please follow through on Alternative 1 of the Environmental Assessment, no action.

Thank you,  
Julia Glenn

**Cynthia Etchegoin**

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**From:** Cynthia Etchegoin  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 20, 2012 10:23 AM  
**To:** 'AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov'  
**Subject:** FW: Carson City Residents \$10,000,000.00 V & T Train Bond is being Jeopardized.

Please reconsider your recommendations, what history is left to view from the "historic train" if you remove this icon?? American Flats is mentioned in every ghost town and history book of Nevada and these places bring in Nevada visitors and revenue to our state. American Flats has been stabilized and removal will be twice as much money as any recommendation has outlined. Remember when Reno went to take down the Majesty Theater?? Is this decision made to please Comstock Mining Company??

Respectfully,

Cynthia Etchegoin

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**From:** Cynthia Etchegoin  
**Sent:** Monday, December 17, 2012 2:19 PM  
**To:** 'editor@nevadaappeal.com'  
**Subject:** FW: Carson City Residents \$10,000,000.00 V & T Train Bond Is being Jeopardized.

corrected version, revegetated, not renegotiated

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**From:** Cynthia Etchegoin  
**Sent:** Monday, December 17, 2012 2:16 PM  
**To:** 'editor@nevadaappeal.com'  
**Subject:** FW: Carson City Residents \$10,000,000.00 V & T Train Bond is being Jeopardized.

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**From:** Cynthia Etchegoin  
**Sent:** Monday, December 17, 2012 2:14 PM  
**To:** 'editor@nevadaappeal.com'  
**Subject:** Carson City Residents \$10,000,000.00 V & T Train Bond Is being Jeopardized.

Dear Nevada Appeal,

Our local district of BLM has recommended the Historic American Flats Mill be demolished and the area revegetated. The Old Mill site has been a cause for controversy over safety however, the remnants as they remain are mostly secured and with minimal additional effort could be maintained.

The V & T train stops for approximately 30 minutes as they travel the route from Virginia City to Carson to allow for pictures etc. In the absence of this structure that many consider beautiful, even in the current state, there would be nothing much of historic value to view and thereby jeopardizes Carson residents who were gracious enough to allow the Bond by vote. Please respond to the BLM asap.

The timeline for making disputes appears to be January 19, 2013. however comments must be received in a timely manner.

Interested individuals can send comments to the Carson City District Office, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City NV 89701//attn: Brian Buttazoni, Sierra Front Field Office or email comments to: [AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov](mailto:AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov)  
They may also be faxed to (775) 885-6147 attn: Brian Buttazoni

Sincerely,

**Cynthia Etchegoin**





CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA, BLM\_NV <blm\_nv\_ccdo\_americanflatea@blm.gov>

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## I SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE 1, NO ACTION

1 message

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**Miranda Chang** [REDACTED]

Fri, Dec 21, 2012 at 10:13 PM

To: BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA <BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov>

The United Comstock Merger Mill should be preserved for future generations. Please allow it to be transformed into an interpretive center that is safe and educational. Please honor and preserve Nevada History! Please follow through on Alternative 1 of the Environmental Assessment, no action.

Thank you,  
Miranda M. Chang



CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA, BLM\_NV <blm\_nv\_ccdo\_americanflatea@blm.gov>

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## I SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE 1, NO ACTION

1 message

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**Miranda Chang** [REDACTED]

Fri, Dec 21, 2012 at 10:13 PM

To: BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA <BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov>

The United Comstock Merger Mill should be preserved for future generations. Please allow it to be transformed into an interpretive center that is safe and educational. Please honor and preserve Nevada History! Please follow through on Alternative 1 of the Environmental Assessment, no action.

Thank you,  
Miranda M. Chang



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## A comment in favor of preserving American Flat Mill

1 message

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Steve Bottoms [REDACTED]

Wed, Dec 26, 2012 at 8:34 AM

To: BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA <BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov>

I would like to register my comment in favor or preserving the American Flat Mill site in Carson City, NV.

As a photographer, one of the things that I enjoy most is photographing old structures, both intact and crumbling, that represent a piece of the American West the many today, and most likely many in the future, will never see. It's our duty as citizens to help preserve the important pieces of our past to show future generations how we got here, the decisions we made to progress, and how we grew from those days. The Mill at American Flat represents such an opportunity for preserving our past and educating those that will come after us.

I understand that the Mill, as it stands today, is a danger to people exploring the structures or just wandering around it's halls and chambers. It only makes sense for government to try to protect us from ourselves. However, I think a case can be made for applying very careful reinforcement of structures, while installing means on-site for visitors to tour the structure. In France, at various UNESCO protected sites, cave walls covered with prehistoric art are protected by means of limited, guided tours of small parties and carefully laid out walkways that do not disturb the ground relics or delicate art on the walls. I don't see a need to go to quite that extreme with the American Flat site, but closing it off as a protected site and opening it to limited tours for (for example) photographers, history buffs, scientists, and others of interest would necessarily be a bad thing. Entrance fees can be used to recoup the costs of structural support and adding tour-friendly walkways through and around the structures. For myself, I know I would be willing to pay to be able to spend some time there (supervised, of course) to take photographs of the site and document both it's historical as well as cultural value. I haven't had the pleasure of going to the site yet, but I read that it used to be served by a rail spur. Perhaps the CC/VC train tour can be increased in length to include that site, with a stop-over there for a guided tour once per day. Yes, the costs to get such a plan running would probably not be trivial, but I'm certain the communities surrounding Reno & Carson City (including VC and Dayton, Gardnerville, etc) would have more than a few volunteers to help with the work, myself included in that list.

The potential at American Flat Mill to not only preserve a piece of the American West is there, but also an opportunity to generate a good deal of good will and (perhaps) some much needed funding for the BLM and/or Parks Service is there, just waiting to be taken. I hope my opinion and the others of those speaking out in favor of preserving the American Flat Mill site are taken into account in the BLM's consideration of either preservation or destruction of this piece of Nevada & American history.

Thanks.  
Steve Bottoms





CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA, BLM\_NV &lt;blm\_nv\_ccdo\_americanflatea@blm.gov&gt;

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## American Flats

1 message

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Laura Rich [REDACTED]

Thu, Dec 27, 2012 at 9:12 PM

To: BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA <BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov>

The United Comstock Merger Mill should be preserved for future generations. Please allow it to be transformed into an interpretive center that is safe and educational. Please honor and preserve Nevada History! Please follow through on Alternative 1 of the Environmental Assessment, no action.

Thank you,

Laura Rich



CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA, BLM\_NV <blm\_nv\_ccdo\_americanflatea@blm.gov>

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## I SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE 1, NO ACTION

1 message

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**Steffen Beach** [REDACTED]

Thu, Jan 3, 2013 at 7:39 AM

To: BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA <BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov>

The United Comstock Merger Mill should be preserved for future generations. Please allow it to be transformed into an interpretive center that is safe and educational. Please honor and preserve Nevada History! Please follow through on Alternative 1 of the Environmental Assessment, no action.

Thank you,  
Steffen Beach



CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA, BLM\_NV <bim\_nv\_ccdo\_americanflatea@blm.gov>

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## I SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE 1, NO ACTION

1 message

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Nicole Howeson [REDACTED]

Thu, Jan 3, 2013 at 7:45 AM

To: BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA <BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov>

The United Comstock Merger Mill should be preserved for future generations. Please allow it to be transformed into an interpretive center that is safe and educational. Please honor and preserve Nevada History! Please follow through on Alternative 1 of the Environmental Assessment, no action.

Thank you,

Nicole Howeson

—  
Nicole Rivett Howeson [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA, BLM\_NV <blm\_nv\_ccdo\_americanflatea@blm.gov>

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## I SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE 1, NO ACTION

1 message

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**Gerard Somers** [REDACTED]

Thu, Jan 3, 2013 at 9:44 AM

To: BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA <BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov>

The United Comstock Merger Mill should be preserved for future generations. Please allow it to be transformed into an interpretive center that is safe and educational. Please honor and preserve Nevada History! Please follow through on Alternative 1 of the Environmental Assessment, no action.

Thank you,

Gerard Somers



CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA, BLM\_NV <blm\_nv\_ccdo\_americanflatea@blm.gov>

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## I SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE 1, NO ACTION

1 message

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Joanna Schaefer [REDACTED]  
To: BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA <BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov>

Thu, Jan 3, 2013 at 4:18 PM

**The United Comstock Merger Mill should be preserved for future generations. Please allow it to be transformed into an interpretive center that is safe and educational. Please honor and preserve Nevada History! Please follow through on Alternative 1 of the Environmental Assessment, no action.**

Thank you,

Joanna Schaefer





CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA, BLM\_NV <blm\_nv\_ccdo\_americanflatea@blm.gov>

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## I SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE 1, NO ACTION

1 message

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**Patti Hoepelman** [REDACTED]  
Reply-To: Patti Hoepelman [REDACTED]  
To: BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA <BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov>

Thu, Jan 3, 2013 at 5:53 PM

To Whom It May Concern

The United Comstock Merger Mill should be preserved for future generations. Please allow it to be transformed into an interpretive center that is safe and educational. Please honor and preserve Nevada History! Please follow through on Alternative 1 of the Environmental Assessment, no action.

Thank you,

Patti Hoepelman

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[REDACTED]



CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA, BLM\_NV <blm\_nv\_ccdo\_americanflatea@blm.gov>

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## I SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE 1, NO ACTION

1 message

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**Tad Watson** [REDACTED]

Thu, Jan 3, 2013 at 9:01 PM

To: BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA <BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov>

The United Comstock Merger Mill should be preserved for future generations. Please allow it to be transformed into an interpretive center that is safe and educational. Please honor and preserve Nevada History! Please follow through on Alternative 1 of the Environmental Assessment, no action.

Thank you,

Tad M. Watson



CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA, BLM\_NV <blm\_nv\_ccdo\_americanflatea@blm.gov>

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## I SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE 1, NO ACTION

1 message

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Dale Barbee [REDACTED]

Fri, Jan 4, 2013 at 8:28 AM

To: BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA <BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov>

The United Comstock Merger Mill should be preserved for future generations. Please allow it to be transformed into an interpretive center that is safe and educational. Please honor and preserve Nevada History! Please follow through on Alternative 1 of the Environmental Assessment, no action.

Thank you,

-

Dale Barbee  
[REDACTED]



CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA, BLM\_NV <blm\_nv\_ccdo\_americanflatea@blm.gov>

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## I SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE 1, NO ACTION

1 message

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**Daniel Martinez** [REDACTED]

Fri, Jan 4, 2013 at 11:57 AM

To: BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA <BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov>

To Whom It May Concern:

The United Comstock Merger Mill should be preserved for future generations. Please allow it to be transformed into an interpretive center that is safe and educational. Please honor and preserve Nevada History! Please follow through on Alternative 1 of the Environmental Assessment, no action.

Thank you,

Daniel J.A. Martinez



CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA, BLM\_NV <blm\_nv\_ccdo\_americanflatea@blm.gov>

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## I SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE 1, NO ACTION

1 message

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Sandy Chan [REDACTED]

Fri, Jan 4, 2013 at 5:32 PM

To: BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA <BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov>

The United Comstock Merger Mill should be preserved for future generations. Please allow it to be transformed into an interpretive center that is safe and educational. Please honor and preserve Nevada History! Please follow through on Alternative 1 of the Environmental Assessment, no action.

Thank you,  
Sandy

—  
Sandy Chan





CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA, BLM\_NV <blm\_nv\_ccdo\_americanflatea@blm.gov>

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## I SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE 1, NO ACTION

1 message

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Jeremy Mercer [REDACTED]

Fri, Jan 4, 2013 at 8:36 PM

To: BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA <BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov>

The United Comstock Merger Mill should be preserved for future generations. Please allow it to be transformed into an interpretive center that is safe and educational. Please honor and preserve Nevada History! Please follow through on Alternative 1 of the Environmental Assessment, no action.

Thank you,

Jeremy



CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA, BLM\_NV <blm\_nv\_ccdo\_americanflatea@blm.gov>

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## I SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE 1, NO ACTION

1 message

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**bradley i. craig** [REDACTED]

Sat, Jan 5, 2013 at 5:38 PM

To: BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA <BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov>

The United Comstock Merger Mill should be preserved for future generations. Please allow it to be transformed into an interpretive center that is safe and educational. Please honor and preserve Nevada History! Please follow through on Alternative 1 of the Environmental Assessment, no action.

Thank you,  
Bradley Craig



**Re: BLM Releases Environmental Assessment for 45-days Public Review for the United Comstock Merger Mill at American Flat**

2 messages

Doug Elmer

Sat, Jan 5, 2013 at 6:56 PM

To:

[Redacted]

All,

There should be a correction to the attached letter:

To the best of my knowledge, the Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer [Redacted] did not favor demolition but favored the exact opposite: to preserve the site.

Doug

Sat, Jan 5, 2013 at 5:09 PM, Stephen & Beverly Drew <[Redacted]> wrote:

Brian L. Buttazoni:

Thank you for your attached e-mail notice.

The Virginia & Truckee Railroad Historical Society sends the attached seven-page letter in protest to the BLM's announced decision to demolish what remains of the significant United Comstock Merger Mill on American Flat. A hard copy follows by U.S. Mail.

We note the period for public comment on the BLM's decision extends to January 19, 2013.

Sincerely,

Stephen E. Drew

[Redacted]

— On Wed, 12/5/12, BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA <BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov> wrote:

From: BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA <BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov>  
Subject: BLM Releases Environmental Assessment for 45-days Public Review for the United Comstock Merger Mill at American Flat

[Redacted]

Date: Wednesday, December 5, 2012, 4:54 PM

Today the BLM has released an environmental assessment for the United Comstock Merger Mill at American Flat. Please read the attached letter for more information.

Brian L. Buttazoni

*NEPA Specialist*

Sierra Front Field Office

775-885-6000

775-885-6147 (fax)

Stephen & Beverly Drew [REDACTED]

Sun, Jan 6, 2013 at 10:45 AM

To: Doug Elmer [REDACTED]

Doug Elmer:

Thank you for your e-mail.

We are aware of [REDACTED] position but, unfortunately, he retired as of December 28, 2012.

We have sent similar letters to NV Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Rebecca L. Palmer with the hope that SHPO will actively oppose the BLM's decision to raze what remains of the Comstock Merger Mill.

Many thanks again.

Stephen E. Drew  
[REDACTED]

— On Sat, 1/5/13, Doug Elmer [REDACTED] wrote:

From: Doug Elmer [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: BLM Releases Environmental Assessment for 45-days Public Review for the United Comstock Merger Mill at American Flat

To: [REDACTED]





CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA, BLM\_NV <blm\_nv\_ccdo\_americanflatea@blm.gov>

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## SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE 1, NO ACTION

1 message

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**Chaodan Zheng** [REDACTED]

Sun, Jan 6, 2013 at 4:59 PM

To: BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA <BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov>

The United Comstock Merger Mill should be preserved for future generations. Please allow it to be transformed into an interpretive center that is safe and educational. Please honor and preserve Nevada History! Please follow through on Alternative 1 of the Environmental Assessment, no action.

Thank you,  
Chaodan Zheng



CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA, BLM\_NV <blm\_nv\_ccdo\_americanflatea@blm.gov>

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## I SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE 1, NO ACTION

1 message

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Ryan Kindervater [REDACTED]

Mon, Jan 7, 2013 at 9:40 PM

To: BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA <BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov>

The United Comstock Merger Mill should be preserved for future generations. Please allow it to be transformed into an interpretive center that is safe and educational. Please honor and preserve Nevada History! Please follow through on Alternative 1 of the Environmental Assessment, no action.

Thank you,

Ryan Kindervater



Buttazoni, Brian <bbuttazoni@blm.gov>

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## Re: United Comstock Merger Mill at American Flat Comments Due January 19

1 message

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Neal Dach [REDACTED]

Fri, Jan 11, 2013 at 2:03 PM

To: "Buttazoni, Brian" <bbuttazoni@blm.gov>

[REDACTED]

Brian,

I'm sorry, but this is unacceptable.

A number of people have emailed comments in favor of alternative 1, no action. They will not be informed of the problem and their voices won't be heard. I request that the public comment window be extended another 6 weeks to allow time to once again spread the word.

Neal

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 11, 2013, at 3:06 PM, "Buttazoni, Brian" <bbuttazoni@blm.gov> wrote:

On December 5, 2012 the Bureau of Land Management released a draft Environmental Assessment for the American Flat Mill. You are on the project's mailing list.

This email is to notify you that the contact email address for the project (AmericanFlat\_EA@blm.gov) is not working due to technical problems. The comment period closes on January 19, 2013. If you had already sent comments to this email, or have comments you would like to provide, there is still time. You can send email comments directly to me.

The documents can be accessed by copying the following hyperlink into your web browser.

<https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/planAndProjectSite.do?methodName=dispatchToPatternPage&currentPagelD=41628>

Thank you.

—

Brian L. Buttazoni  
*Planning and Environmental Coordinator*  
Sierra Front Field Office  
(775) 885-6004  
(775) 885-6174 (fax)



CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA, BLM\_NV <blm\_nv\_ccdo\_americanflatea@blm.gov>

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## I SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE 1, NO ACTION

1 message

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**Peter Grogan** [REDACTED]

Tue, Jan 15, 2013 at 6:41 AM

To: BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA <BLM\_NV\_CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA@blm.gov>

The United Comstock Merger Mill should be preserved for future generations. Please allow it to be transformed into an interpretive center that is safe and educational. Please honor and preserve Nevada History! Please follow through on Alternative 1 of the Environmental Assessment, no action.

Thank you,  
Peter Grogan



Buttazoni, Brian <bbuttazoni@blm.gov>

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## Re: United Comstock Merger Mill at American Flat

1 message

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Neal Dach [REDACTED]  
To: "Buttazoni, Brian" <bbuttazoni@blm.gov>

Wed, Jan 16, 2013 at 8:49 AM

So glad to hear! Thankyou!

Neal

On Wed, Jan 16, 2013 at 11:34 AM, Buttazoni, Brian <bbuttazoni@blm.gov> wrote:

Neal:

All emails for the American Flat project have now been recovered. Due to the Martin Luther King federal holiday the comment period has been extended until Tuesday January 22.

—

Brian L. Buttazoni  
*Planning and Environmental Coordinator*  
Sierra Front Field Office  
(775) 885-6004  
(775) 885-6174 (fax)



CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA, BLM\_NV &lt;blm\_nv\_ccdo\_americanflatea@blm.gov&gt;

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## The Mill

1 message

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**Greg Smith** [REDACTED]  
To: americanflat\_ea@blm.gov

Sat, Jan 19, 2013 at 1:23 AM

Please don't demolish the Mill site. I have taken my family there many times. It is a bigger attraction than Virginia City in my opinion. It is an important part of our history we should not live without.

Greg Smith  
[REDACTED]



## Do NOT destroy the historically valuable United Comstock Merger Mill at American Flat.

1 message

bill piltdown [REDACTED]  
To: americanflat\_ea@blm.gov

Fri, Jan 18, 2013 at 3:50 PM

Note- this is the 2nd copy of my public feedback, re-submitted to correct some problems with formatting at the bottom of the page.

Re:

Public Comment Period on the United Comstock Merger Mill at American Flat Environmental Assessment

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to serve as notice of my opposition to the "The Proposed Action that would remove all structures at the American Flat Mill site".

The United Comstock Merger Mill at American Flat is a significant and irreplaceable historic site and should be preserved. At the very least, taxpayers' money should not be wasted on destroying this valuable historic site, and it should be left as it is until proper renovation and study is possible for future generations and for the surrounding community.

In the United States today, we are in the midst of the worst economic situation since the Great Depression and the idea that the BLM would even consider spending \$4,000,000 to destroy this significant part of the heritage and history of the Comstock and of the state of Nevada is, frankly, offensive.

The audit of the site by the Department of the Interior, Office of Inspector General in 2008 states that the BLM had not bothered to fence the area and had provided "inadequate warning signs" and notes that this has resulted in one instance of an accidental death on an all terrain vehicle 17 years ago. Obviously, if the area posed a real and continuing threat to public safety there would be more than one solitary example of harm since the construction of the United Comstock Merger Mill in 1922.

That is to say that the BLM has provided one case of an accidental death at the site in the last 93 years, while the number of deaths and injuries resulting from all terrain vehicle and motorcycle accidents in the surrounding area have neglectfully not been taken into account as consideration of the relative hazard to be found in the area.

Additionally, the Proposed Action would clearly have significant effects on the human environment, resulting in dust and perhaps contaminated materials to become airborne resulting in a threat to the health of nearby residents and passersby depending upon wind and other environmental factors. This clearly merits an Environmental Impact Statement before this expensive operation is allowed to move forward.

To sum up:

1.) This site is a significant and irreplaceable piece of Comstock, Nevada and United States history and should be preserved, rather than hastily destroyed without consideration of its value to future generations.

2.) The danger to the public presented by the existence of this historical site has been grossly overstated. One death in 93 years does not constitute a public hazard. More people have likely been injured or killed in supermarket parking lots in a much shorter span of years.

3.) Spending \$4,000,000 dollars of taxpayers' money during the worst economic downturn faced by the United states since the Great Depression makes very little sense, and this is compounded by the fact that this wasteful demolition plan has been forced forward against the wishes of the majority of the people who have

responded to your past calls for public comments, as noted in your own report here:  
<http://clearinghouse.nv.gov/public/Notice/2013/E2013-108.pdf>

4.) The Proposed Action would clearly have significant effects on the human environment, and for the sake of public safety therefore merits an Environmental Impact Statement before this expensive operation is allowed to move forward.

5.) Rather than wasting millions of dollars on destruction of a historic site, a far better choice for this historical area would be the one described in your above linked report as:

"2.3.1 Alternative 1 – No Action (Current Management)

Maintain or repair the existing fencing around clusters of buildings and allow public access to the areas between the buildings;

Maintain and/or repair closure signage."

Sincerely,  
Christopher Farris



CCDO\_AmericanFlatEA, BLM\_NV <blm\_nv\_ccdo\_americanflatea@blm.gov>

## Fwd: Comments on AFM draft EA

1 message

**Buttazoni, Brian** <bbuttazoni@blm.gov>  
To: Americanflat\_EA@blm.gov

Mon, Jan 21, 2013 at 8:30 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Robert Elston** [REDACTED]  
Date: Sun, Jan 20, 2013 at 1:44 PM  
Subject: Comments on AFM draft EA  
To: bbuttazoni@blm.gov

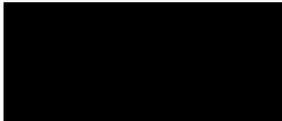
Dear Brian,

Please find attached my comments on the American Flat Mill draft EA.

Sincerely,

Robert Elston

;=@ ;=@ ;=@ ;=@ ;=@ ;=@ ;=@  
Robert G. Elston



;=@ ;=@ ;=@ ;=@ ;=@ ;=@ ;=@

—  
Brian L. Buttazoni  
*Planning and Environmental Coordinator*  
Sierra Front Field Office  
(775) 885-6004  
(775) 885-6174 (fax)

**Buttazoni letter.docx**  
21K

Robert G. Elston



Brian Buttazoni  
Sierra Front Field Office  
Carson City District  
5665 Morgan Hill Rd.  
Carson City, NV 89701

January 20, 2013

Dear Mr. Buttazoni:

This letter comments on the 2012 Environmental Assessment of the United Comstock Merger Mill in American Flat (AMF), Storey County Nevada.

I have read and fully support all of the points made by Larry Wahrenbrock in his letter to you regarding the seriously flawed 2012 draft EA. I have added my comments to his, and I further address the inadequate treatment of the AFM graffiti.

1. The draft EA does not address the cumulative effect of demolishing the AFM on the Virginia City National Historical Landmark (VCNHL). Although the draft EA contains a major heading “Cumulative Effects,” it fails to mention the fact that the mill is a major feature of the VCNHL, which itself is listed as endangered from the “cumulative effect of contemporary surface mines within the central corridor of the district [resulting in] a gradual destruction and disintegration of the historic landscape that constitutes the visual heart of the historic district.”<sup>1</sup>
2. Analyses in the draft EA were conducted in the absence of a HALS inventory to provide a context for evaluation and recommendation. The lack of a landscape element in determining effects of actions in the VCNHL is at the heart of its continuing deterioration.
3. No attempt was made to document via oral history, the cultural significance of the AFM in lore and legend of living Comstock residents and former residents.
4. Without discussion, the draft EA dismisses the cultural significance, artistic and historic values of the extensive graffiti in the AFM. The draft EA states that none of the AFM graffiti appears to be more than 50 years old (1962). How was this determination made and what were the qualifications of the person who made it?

Loathe it or love it, graffiti is a historical document<sup>2</sup>. One may be appalled or repelled by references to gangs, hate groups or youth culture, but these are all

legitimate subjects for study and analysis. The artistic value of graffiti is widely recognized<sup>3</sup> and this is true of some of the AFM graffiti (draft EA attachment D, right). There is a formal system for graffiti classification and analysis.<sup>4</sup> This web site<sup>5</sup> provides a comprehensive look at both the artistic and historical value of graffiti, as well as its negative impacts as vandalism, a potential trash generator, and so on. None of these topics (easily found in a web search) are referenced in the draft EA.

None of the proposed alternatives involving demolition provide for the detailed documentation of the graffiti that it deserves. A 15-minute HD documentary of the AFM will not provide the level of documentation needed. As far as I know, no one in the Nevada BLM or SHPO's office has the expertise to evaluate or document the AFM graffiti, which is perhaps why it was written off.

It is true that the AFM presents problems in its management, preservation and public safety, but that doesn't mean that the only solution is demolition. Demolition is merely the easy path, one that ignores the considerable historic and cultural values possessed by the AFM that cannot be mitigated by documentation, even if it includes expert extensive documentation of the graffiti.

Sincerely yours,

Robert G. Elston

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<sup>1</sup> <http://tps.cr.nps.gov/nhl/detail.cfm?ResourceId=322&ResourceType=District>

<sup>2</sup> 1998 Goin, Peter and Elizabeth Raymond. Physical Graffiti: Mining Legacies at American Flat. In, *Western Technological Landscapes*, ed. Stephen Tchudi: 133-150. Nevada Humanities Committee, Reno

2010 Oliver, Jeff and Tim Neal (eds). *Wild Signs: Graffiti in Archaeology and History*. Archaeopress, Oxford.

2009 Kramer, Ronald. *A social history of graffiti writing in New York City, 1990--2005*. Yale University.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.graffiti.org/>  
(<http://www.nytimes.com/slideshow/2012/06/06/greathomesanddestinations/0606LOCATION-slideshow.html#1>)

<sup>4</sup> 2008 Gottlieb, Lisa. *Graffiti Art Styles: a classification system and theoretical analysis*. MacFarland & Company, Jefferson, North Carolina.

<sup>5</sup> <http://readtiger.com/wkp/en/Graffiti>