



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Sierra Front Field Office
5665 Morgan Mill Rd
Carson City, NV 89701
<http://www.blm.gov/nv>

In Reply Refer To:
2800 (LLNVC02000)
NVN 091237

JAN 15 2013

Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Sierra Front Field Office in Carson City, Nevada has received a right-of-way (ROW) application by Comstock Mining for the construction, maintenance and use of the "Lucerne haul road" across public land segments between their Lucerne pit mining operation and heap-leach processing facility. To evaluate their request, the BLM will be preparing an environmental assessment (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act.

Comstock Mining is currently mining in the Lucerne and Billy the Kid Pits, southwest of Gold Hill along State Highway 342, in Storey County, Nevada. The mining and heap-leach operations are located on privately-owned lands. The haul road would cross several public land segments. Comstock Mining is also proposing to make the haul road an exclusive use road. Use of the haul road could reduce Comstock Mining's use of State Highway 342 as a haul road.

In order to fulfill the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and National Historic Preservation Act, an EA is required to evaluate the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to the human environment from the right-of-way (ROW) authorization.

To assist the BLM in evaluating Comstock Mining's proposal, the BLM requests your input at this early stage:

- Do you have knowledge of sensitive or unique resources within the proposed project area?
- Do you have knowledge of conflicts for the use of the American Flat Road/Lucerne Access as an exclusive use road?
- Do you have other information about the proposed project area that could assist us with our evaluation?

This proposal does not involve mining. No request is before the BLM to mine on public lands. The on-going mining operations in the Lucerne and Billy the Kid Pits are on privately-owned lands and are not subject to BLM decision-making.

A 30-day public scoping period will occur from January 17 until February 16, 2013. To gather input on this proposal, the BLM has scheduled the following meetings:

- A briefing will be provided to the Storey County Planning Commission on Thursday January 17, 2013; the meeting begins at 6 pm and will be held at the Storey County Community Development Department, 110 Toll Road, Virginia City;
- A public workshop will be held at the BLM's Carson City District Office on Tuesday January 22, 2013; the workshop will be from 6:30 pm until 8:30 pm with two presentations at 6:45 pm and 7:45 pm. The format will be an open house, not a hearing. The workshop will be held at 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City; and
- A public workshop will be held at the Piper's Opera House on Tuesday January 29, 2013; the workshop will be from 6:30 pm until 8:30 pm with two presentations at 6:45 pm and 7:45 pm. The format will be an open house, not a hearing. The workshop will be held at 12 North B Street, Virginia City.

This 30-day scoping period **closes on February 16, 2013.**

Hard copies of the scoping documents are available at the BLM's Carson City District Office. For additional information and maps of the proposal go to: http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field/blm_information/nepa.html.

Should you have any questions, or to submit your comments, contact: Brian Buttazoni, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, 5665 Morgan Mill Rd, Carson City, Nevada 89701 or email at: bbuttazoni@blm.gov. Comments can also be faxed to: 775-885-6147 attn: Brian Buttazoni. For more information call Brian at: 775-885-6004.

Privacy notice: before including address, phone number, email-address, or any other personal identifying information in your comments, 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 view, the BLM cannot guarantee it will be able to do so. If you wish us to withhold your personal information you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Sincerely,



Leon Thomas
Field Manager
Sierra Front Field Office