



Long Canyon Mine Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement



DEIS PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET

Informed decisions are better decisions: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) believes that public involvement will serve to improve communication, develop enhanced understanding of different perspectives, and identify solutions to issues and problems. We look forward to hearing from you!

Where to provide comments: You can hand this form in at a public meeting or mail it in using the address on the reverse. **Comments can also be submitted via email to the following email address: BLM_NV_ELDOLongCanyonMine@blm.gov.**

Name JEFFREY JOYCE County ELKO

Title _____ Organization _____

Mailing Address P.O. Box 189

City WELLS State NV Zip 89835

Email JJOYCE@JOYCE@ADL.COM

Date 4-21-14 Meeting Location (if applicable) WELLS

Please check box if you want to be on the mailing list for future updates and notifications for this project.

COMMENT (use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)

11.1 [THE ALTERNATE PLAN IS BETTER FROM MY POINT OF VIEW. BETTER ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION + BETTER PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE SOUTHERN END OF THE MOUNTAINS.

11.2 [IS THERE ANY WAY TO ALLOW ACCESS TO THE BIG SPRINGS DURING BIRD MIGRATIONS FOR OBSERVATION AND PHOTOGRAPHY?

Fold in thirds so address (on reverse) is showing, add postage, tape bottom of fold, and mail, **postmarked by May 5, 2014.**

Please check box if you do **not** want your name released when comments are made public.

Comments, including names, street addresses, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers (if provided) of respondents will be available for public review at the BLM Elko District Office during regular business hours (7:45 am to 4:30 pm), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comments to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

From: wwirthl@blm.gov on behalf of [ELDOLongCanyonMine, BLM_NV](#)
To: [Kristi Schaff](#)
Subject: Fwd: Long Canyon Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Date: Monday, April 28, 2014 7:11:00 AM

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

From: **Matthew Fein** <fein.matthew@yahoo.com>
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2014 at 6:45 AM
Subject: Long Canyon Draft Environmental Impact Statement
To: "BLM_NV_ELDOLongCanyonMine@blm.gov"
<BLM_NV_ELDOLongCanyonMine@blm.gov>

Dear BLM:

12.1 [I support the conclusions reached in the Long Canyon EIS and support a swift granting of all necessary permits to Newmont so that construction of the mine can begin as soon as possible.

Thank you,

Matthew Fein

5855 Brooke Drive

Winnemucca, NV 89445

From: wwirthli@blm.gov on behalf of [ELDOLongCanyonMine, BLM_NV](#)
To: [Kristi Schaff](#)
Subject: Fwd: Long Canyon Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Date: Monday, April 28, 2014 7:11:23 AM

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

From: **Peter Turlington** <turlington88@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2014 at 7:05 AM
Subject: Long Canyon Draft Environmental Impact Statement
To: BLM_NV_ELDOLongCanyonMine@blm.gov

To Whom It May Concern,

13.1 [I support the conclusions reached in the EIS. This operating site will have minimal environmental impact. The labor growth and successful sustainability of the gold mining industry in Nevada is dependent upon the development of this opportunity. I 100% support the mine.

Regards,

Peter

United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Trails Intermountain Region
Branch Office
324 South State Street, Suite 200
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111



IN REPLY REFER TO:

April 25, 2014

Memorandum

To: NEPA Compliance Coordinator, Elko District Office, Bureau of Land Management

From: Archeologist, National Trails Intermountain Region

Subject: Long Canyon Mine Project DEIS Review Comments

Thank you for providing the opportunity to review the Long Canyon Mine Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). This office of the National Park Service administers nine components of the National Trails System, including the California National Historic Trail (NHT). We offer the following comments for your consideration.

14.1 [Appendix 3F, Section 1.1 of the DEIS provides the National Trail System Act's statement of purpose for national historic trails. However, the summary omits a key phrase from that statement: "the identification and protection of the historic route and its historic remnants and artifacts for public use and enjoyment." Please consider including that information, as it is a primary authority for federal protection of national historic trails.

14.2 [The appendix also should note, here or in another appropriate section, that 1) the portion of the California NHT that transects the project area is designated as the Granstville to Franklin River Crossing High Potential Segment (NHT) (NPS 1999:13); 2) that high potential segment is also part of the Bidwell-Bartleson route, followed by the first overland emigrant party to California; and 3) Big Springs is a designated high potential site on the Hastings Cutoff branch of the California NHT. The springs, though used by other emigrants, are of particular significance to the Bidwell-Bartleson party, which abandoned its wagons at that location before proceeding across Nevada on foot and without maps or guides in 1841. Big Springs is evaluated in the DEIS as a water

14.2
(continued) [resource but not as a cultural resource. Even though the springs might already be impacted by years of ranch-related development, they need to be documented and evaluated for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places; and if they are found eligible, any impacts or adverse effects to them need to be identified and analyzed.

14.3 [The DEIS states that the proponents will be required to reclaim and revegetate the project site in eight to ten years. Long-term drought conditions have rendered such efforts very difficult in recent years, and conditions could be even more difficult in ten years due to climate change. Please address what measures could be taken to help ensure the success of the revegetation effort, and what alternative measures might be employed if revegetation is not successful.

14.4 [Finally, on page 4-118, the DEIS states that a regional mitigation plan will be developed for the purpose of determining appropriate mitigation costs, and that an MOU will be executed by BLM and the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office to establish a board that will "manage the dispersal of funds," presumably by spending them on interpretation and education. Please identify what parties will or may be involved in developing the mitigation plan, elaborate on the proposed membership of the board and its responsibilities, and especially broaden the range of mitigation options. Interpretive and educational programs alone are not necessarily adequate mitigation for impacts to designated national historic trails. The Marys River Oil & Gas Exploration Environmental Assessment might serve as a good model for these discussions.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to review the draft EIS. If you have questions about these remarks, I can be contacted at 801/741-1012 ext. 118 and by email at lee_kreutzer@nps.gov.



Lee Kreutzer



Long Canyon Mine Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement



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Name [REDACTED] County ELKO

Title _____ Organization _____

Mailing Address [REDACTED]

City [REDACTED] State [REDACTED] Zip [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

Date 4-21-14 Meeting Location (if applicable) _____

Please check box if you want to be on the mailing list for future updates and notifications for this project.

COMMENT (use back side if you need additional space or attach additional sheets)

15.1 We look down the valley at the Long Canyon Mine Project from our home on Muddock Mtn. We realize that mining is a major industry in Nevada but want to make sure as landowners and residents our concerns are considered also. We did not choose to live here for availability of water, roads, services and other amenities. We live here for the quiet, clear air, and the dark skies at night with incredible views of stars. The Long Canyon MP could immediately affect our quality of life with its lighting. We are counting on the BLM to represent our interests just as you have protected the deer, elk and other area residents.

Fold in thirds so address (on reverse) is showing, add postage, tape bottom of fold, and mail, **postmarked by May 5, 2014.**

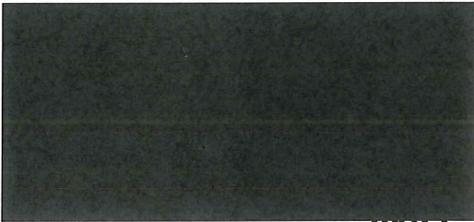
Please check box if you do **not** want your name released when comments are made public.

Comments, including names, street addresses, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers (if provided) of respondents will be available for public review at the BLM Elko District Office during regular business hours (7:45 am to 4:30 pm), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comments to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

RECEIVED
APR 25 2014
BLM NVSO

Long Canyon Mine B15
c/o Whitney Wirthlin
Bureau of Land Management
Nevada State Office
1340 Financial Blvd.
Reno, Nevada 89502

RECEIVED
APR 25 2014
BLM NVSO IAC



Place
Stamp
Here

Thank you for your comment!

To return via mail:
Fold in thirds so address (above) is showing,
add postage, tape bottom of fold, and mail.
Please postmark by: *May 5, 2014*

Comment continued:

15.1
(continued)

Please make sure mine lighting is held to the most up to date ways of protecting our dark skies. We already see a glow from Wendover and it is not even in the same valley as us. We are very concerned what the lighting on this mine will do to our starscape. There are few places left on earth that can offer what we have here in Elko County. Let's not lose this precious resource.

From: wwirthli@blm.gov on behalf of [ELDOLongCanyonMine, BLM_NV](#)
To: [Kristi Schaff](#)
Subject: Fwd: Long Canyon support
Date: Monday, April 28, 2014 2:35:39 PM

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

From: **Kyle Anderson** <pickinaguit@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2014 at 10:15 AM
Subject: Long Canyon support
To: BLM_NV_ELDOLongCanyonMine@blm.gov

16.1 [This is a note supporting the conclusions reached in the DEIS and support the mine and it's impact on the environment and surrounding community.

Thank you for your consideration!

Ms Whitney Wirthlin, Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management, Nevada State Office
1640 FINANCIAL BLVD
RENO, NEVADA 89502

April 28, 2014

Dear Ms Wirthlin:

I, Dana McGinn, am a licensed Nevada hunting guide of thirty four years, the last twenty four years guiding in Area 7. As such, I have a close working knowledge and relationship with Area 7 mule deer impacted by the proposed Long Canyon Mine (project). While all wildlife within the project area are important I will focus on the mule deer impacts. Having reviewed the Long Canyon Mine Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) I provide the following comments:

I. Background and Public Support For AREA 7 Deer Within Project Area, not disclosed in DEIS.

A. In June of 1999 BLM gave final approval for the Big Springs Land Exchange. This land exchange involved checker board lands within the project area with strong public support from several conservation organizations including the National Wildlife Federation, Nevada Wildlife Federation, Coalition for Nevada Wildlife, Nevada Mule Deer Foundation, Rocky Mountain Elk

I. A cont'd...

Foundation, Sierra Club - Toiyabe Chapter, Trout Unlimited, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited, Northeastern Nevada Naturalists and the Elko County Conservation Association, with NDOW aiding as the public trust.

Major deer winter range (Long Canyon) and a small but increasing elk herd were identified on the exchange lands that are now located within the project area. This exchange added many square miles of critical game range to public land ownership administered by BLM with the clear desire to protect deer habitat and to allow public enjoyment of deer resource for current and future generations. Again, these lands are currently within the project area.

B.

Two wildlife/safety overpasses were very recently completed with the objectives of public safety and improving mule deer migration success on Hwy 93 north of Wells, NV. NDOW and NDOT provided large amounts of public funds for construction. The deer migrating over/under the highway are the very same deer using the project area for critical migration corridors and critical winter range - the Area 7 deer herd. The overpasses are part of a handful within North America.

Preliminary planning is beginning for more

I. B. cont'd.

overpasses/underpasses located on Pequop Summit providing for deer migration and public safety. These are exceptional efforts by public agencies with public support for the Area 7 deer herd.

17.1
(continued)

C. This project has enjoyed significant pre-project planning efforts from NDOW, BLM and Newmont. While there are still some needed improvements to the proposed project the stage has been well set to develop a mining project that is balanced and reasonable for public resources. Thank you.

II I support the North Facilities Alternative (which the DEIS has identified as the preferred alternative) but with the following improvements to project planning and management for mule deer.

17.2

A. DEIS INADEQUACIES AND NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS FOR MULE DEER.

1. DEIS fails to provide a mule deer monitoring plan. I strongly request a Long Canyon MULE DEER MONITORING PLAN based on Adaptive Management with clear objectives of successful deer migration and successful deer over-wintering within the project area. These objectives will drive monitoring efforts. Clearly stated trigger points requiring on-the-ground modifications/actions

17.3

II. A. 1. cont'd...

17.3
(continued)

to accomplish deer monitoring plan objectives, needed. Adaptive management is essential as wildlife management is an inexact science requiring site specific monitoring, and possible new mitigations.

2. MONITORING IS NOT MITIGATION

17.4

It must be stressed monitoring is no substitute for mitigation. Monitoring identifies whether management objectives are being met. Mitigation requires a change in on-the-ground management to avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce or eliminate impacts. This is clearly stated in the DEIS p. 736.

3. DEIS fails to disclose impacts to recreation.

17.5

Public demand for hunting the Area 7 mule deer is far beyond present availability, as demonstrated by the number of successful tag applicants vs. unsuccessful tag applicants. Impacts from proposed project has potential to greatly reduce overall population of Area 7 deer herd thereby further reducing hunting opportunities.

II. A.

4. DEIS fails to disclose economic benefits of Area 7 deer herd.

17.6

Both national and state agencies provide specific economic benefit analysis useful to the DEIS for Area 7 deer impacted by project. NDOW could easily provide this information. Deer in Elko County are economically important. Please disclose these values.

5. Fencing within Project must be wildlife friendly and allow unrestricted deer passage.

17.7

ALL fencing within the project area must be originally constructed or altered to provide for free, unrestricted migration and daily movement. This must be disclosed, DEIS does not. Refer to "AREA 6 MULE DEER WORKING GROUP HABITAT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES, 1/19/2012" p 17. This is nothing new and is essential to avoid a migration impediment. (DEIS p ES-11)

6. DEIS fails to identify/disclose deer hunting/viewing as a Traditional Value in ELKO COUNTY.

17.8

MULE DEER hunting and/or viewing IN ELKO

II. A. 6 cont'd...

County has been and continues to be the annual highlight for many deer enthusiasts. Area 7 deer hunting tag applicants throughout the nation, state and county, demonstrate the keen desire to experience mule deer hunting in Elko County.

The county itself traditionally demonstrates its love affair with its deer in many forms. Deer antlers/mounts are numerous displayed in business places, private homes. Annual contests awarding prizes for the largest deer, heaviest deer, etc. have been ongoing for several decades. The local Elko Daily FREE PRESS provides/publishes an annual "Deer Hunting Edition" in its newspaper. Multi-generational families throughout the state and county consider deer hunting as a sacred family tradition. More deer hunters, deer guides/out-fitters, work or hunt in Elko County than any other Nevada County. Many hunters of deer in Elko County derive a heightened ~~at~~ level of life only gotten by the passionate and intense emotions experienced by being in the presence of the magnificent animals and their habitat.

Clearly, mule deer hunting/viewing in Elko County, which includes Area 7 deer depending on the project area for survival, should be considered a local

T.L.A. Co cont'd...

17.8
(continued)

tradition and provided for in all applicable projects including Long Canyon Mine project.

III. Reasonably Foreseeable Impacts

Due to recent experiences with Nevada mining operations it is reasonable and prudent to be extremely concerned regarding the following issues:

17.9

A. Future Expansion of Mining Operations beyond Proposed Project Site

Any mining expansion west into the Long Canyon drainage, or south into the Spud Patch and or Railroad Tunnel ^{areas} would be catastrophic to the Area 7 deer herd as these areas are the most crucial winter ranges for this herd. DEIS mapping should be corrected to delineate these areas as crucial winter range with crucial migration corridors providing access.

17.10

B. NOISE and Activity levels may displace wintering deer in Long Canyon crucial wintering area.

17.11

DEIS pES-11 clearly states this is a very real possibility. An Adaptive Monitoring Plan is essential to effectively monitor this possible impact.

III.C. Lower Deer Migration Corridor within Project Area will be blocked by haul road.

7.12

The haul road from open pit to waste rock storage site completely crosses and bisects the lower deer migration corridor within the project area. Noise & activity levels created by heavy traffic use will most likely prove problematic to deer movement. Perhaps traffic patterns can be altered during migration periods in Fall and Spring. Modification of impediments to deer movement must be provided. Again, the need for Adaptive Monitoring Plan.

Conclusion

17.13

If the overall objective of this project is to provide for a large, successful mining operation while simultaneously providing for a large deer herd to successfully migrate and over-winter through and within the project area. (Please publicly disclose if my assumption is wrong.) As such my DEIS comments make common sense to achieve a balanced and reasonable mining project on publicly owned land. The compromises are meaningful and fair. However, some mitigations may prove contentious. In these cases I am genuinely

Conclusion cont'd...

17.3
(continued)

requesting and humbly expecting BLM managers to provide strong leadership in all phases of this project to insure no undue or unnecessary harm occurs to this superlative mule deer resource. The value of the Area 7 deer herd is immeasurable to current and future generations in a rapidly changing world.

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,

Dano McGinn

DANO MCGINN
18775 LIVE OAK ROAD
RED BLUFF, CA 96080



Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority
723 Railroad St. * Elko, NV 89801 * **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**
www.eceda.com **ELKO DISTRICT OFFICE**

2014 APR 23 AM 11: 22

April 23, 2014

Bureau of Land Management
3900 E. Idaho St.
Elko, NV 89801
ATTN: Whitney Wirthlin

Dear Ms. Wirthlin,

The Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority (NRRDA) formerly known as Elko County Economic Diversification Authority (ECEDA) is submitting this letter of support for Newmont's Long Canyon Mine Project.

NRRDA is responsible for economic development in Elko County and each of the four cities within the county; Carlin, Elko, Wells, and West Wendover. The Long Canyon Mine Project will benefit the entire region.

18.1

We applaud the BLM and Newmont with the approach taken to work collaboratively with regulatory agencies, communities, and other key stakeholders incorporating input from these stakeholders in the early stages of the design, engineering, and permitting. The fact that Newmont redesigned their initial plans to incorporate a deer migration corridor, and to move the processing facilities around at the request of the Wendover communities and to re-engineer their tailing storage facility to provide safety and security for sage grouse, demonstrates their commitment to responsible care for the environment during mine life and also when mining is complete. Therefore, we support the North alternative as the best approach. We urge BLM to continue this collaborative engagement and expedited NEPA process.

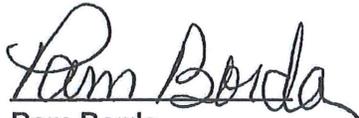
As described in the Plan of Operations and in discussions during a social impact analysis process, the Long Canyon Project will add much-needed stimulation to the local economy by increasing the tax base of Elko County. The construction phase of the project will generate employment for up to 400 construction workers for 18 to 24 months and the long-term effects will include 300 to 500 additional full-time jobs.

The Long Canyon project is also a great addition for our mining support companies. Hundreds of companies have invested in the region and additional mining will provide sustainability and growth for these companies.

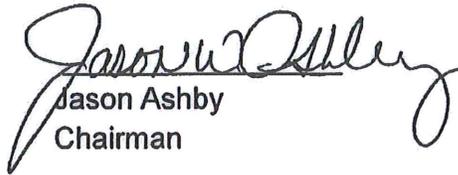
The positive economic impact of this project on Wells and West Wendover in particular will bring much needed growth to those areas. For West Wendover, the project allows diversification from their primary industry of gaming and will spur growth in many other areas of need. For Wells, the project also spurs growth in other areas of need such as retail, health care, etc. and diversifies their economic base as well.

This letter of support was approved by NNRDA's Board of Directors and Executive Committee at their April 23, 2014 meeting.

Sincerely,



Pam Borda
Executive Director



Jason Ashby
Chairman

18.1
(continued)



CITY OF WEST WENDOVER

P.O. Box 2825 • 1111 N. Gene L. Jones Way • West Wendover, NV 89883
Office (775) 664-3081 Fax (775) 664-3720

April 29, 2014

Bureau of Land Management
Long Canyon Mine Project
Attention: Whitney Wirthlin
1340 Financial Boulevard
Reno, NV 89502

Dear Ms. Wirthlin,

The City of West Wendover would like to submit this letter as part of the Public Comment Period for the above noted Long Canyon Mine Project.

The City of West Wendover considers the project to ultimately have positive long-term benefits to the community of West Wendover. Through the past several years, the City of West Wendover, Nevada; the City of Wendover, Utah; and Newmont USA have worked diligently to mitigate various issues related to the Long Canyon project, primarily related to water resources. Through this extensive process, Newmont USA remained a vigilant, open and collaborative partner with the communities ensuring that the best and most up-to-date science was used to assist us in creating proper parameters, procedures and ultimately achieving our common goals of protecting water resources while also providing an opportunity to develop the abundant mineral resources which are available in the area.

19.1

The culmination of this collaborative work resulted in the execution of an agreement between the two cities and Newmont USA. This agreement titled the "Surplus Water Service Agreement" was executed in October of 2013 and provides for the necessary protection, development and mitigation of our water resources. The agreement was completed to the satisfaction of the Governing Board of the City of West Wendover which authorized its execution.

As such, the City of West Wendover supports in full, the Long Canyon project and the positive benefits it will bring to our community, to Elko County and to the State of Nevada on whole. The addition of this significant diversified business activity in eastern Elko County and the resulting employment is a positive step forward in not only economic development but we believe, as well, with regard to appropriate and proper mineral resource development in eastern Elko County.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Emily Carter
Mayor

From: wwirth@blm.gov on behalf of ELDOLongCanyonMine.BLM_NV
To: Kristi.Schaff
Subject: Fwd: Request for printed copy of Long Canyon Draft EIS
Date: Monday, March 24, 2014 3:48:09 PM

Looks like we have another request for a hard copy. Thanks Kristi!

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

From: **Jim Butler** <JButler@parsonsbehle.com>
Date: Mon, Mar 24, 2014 at 2:36 PM
Subject: Request for printed copy of Long Canyon Draft EIS
To: "BLM_NV_ELDOLongCanyonMine@blm.gov" <BLM_NV_ELDOLongCanyonMine@blm.gov>

20.1 [Can you please mail a printed copy of the Long Canyon Draft EIS to

Jim Butler
Parsons Behle & Latimer
50 West Liberty Street, Suite 750
Reno, NV 89501

Thank you very much.



Jim Butler | Attorney at Law
50 West Liberty Street, Suite 750 | Reno, Nevada 89501
Main 775.323.1601 | Direct 775.789.6551 | Cell 775.848.7409 | Fax 775.789.7250
parsonsbehle.com | vCard

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