



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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Humboldt River Field Office
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In Reply Refer To:
3809/1792
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July 2, 2014

Dear Interested Public:

The Bureau of Land Management, Winnemucca District Office, Humboldt River Field Office (HRFO) is seeking public input as it initiates an environmental analysis process for Montezuma Mines, Inc. (Montezuma) plan to expand an existing notice level operation. The proposed South Sleeper Exploration Project Area is approximately thirty miles north-northwest of Winnemucca in Humboldt County, Nevada and immediately south of the existing Sleeper Mine. The Project area for the proposed plan includes all or parts of Township 39 North, Range 34 East, Sections 1 and 12; Township 40 North, Range 35 East, Sections 31 through 35; and Township 39 North, Range 35 East, Sections 4 through 9. Maps are enclosed.

Montezuma is currently allowed to conduct up to 4.25 acres of surface disturbance under their existing notice within their proposed 3,459 acre plan of operations boundary. The total surface disturbance proposed for this project would be 100 acres of surface, over an approximately 10 year period.

Proposed activities presented under this Plan include the following:

- Phase I disturbance consisting of approximately 49.19 acres (including existing notice level disturbance);
- Exploration drill pads and constructed exploration roads;
- Geotechnical auger holes;
- Geological test pits and/or trenches;
- Water monitoring wells and water extraction wells,
- Meteorological station for possible future baseline collection; and
- Additional 50 acres of phased disturbance.

The public is invited to submit comments relative to the development of an environmental assessment within 30 days of the date of this letter. This is also the opportunity to initiate consultation with the BLM under the National Historic Preservation Act. Please send written comments to Mr. Fred Holzel, project manager, at the above address, or e-mail wfoweb@blm.gov with South Sleeper Exploration (Holzel) in the subject line. This letter and a map are also available on the NEPA webpage at http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo/blm_information/nepa0.htm1. In addition, for the next 30 days a copy of Montezuma's South Sleeper Exploration Plan of Operations is available for review at the Winnemucca District Office during regular business hours.

Public comments submitted for this modification, including names and addresses of commenters will be available for public review during regular business hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personnel identifying information in your comment, 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 review, 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.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Fred Holzel at (775) 623-1500 or at the above address.

Sincerely,

S\Victor Lozano
Victor W. Lozano
Field Manager
Humboldt River Field Office