



# United States Department of the Interior



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**In Reply Refer To:**

N93830 & N93831  
3809/3715/1792 (NV010.28)

Date Stamped: October 5, 2015

Dear Interested Public:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking public input as it initiates an Environmental Assessment (EA) for Rye Patch Gold Corporation's (RPG) Oreana Exploration Project. Two noncontiguous exploration areas make up the overall Oreana Project. While noncontiguous, these exploration areas are located in the same geographic area and are referred to in this EA as the Lincoln Hill exploration area and the Wilco exploration area. The Lincoln Hill project area is approximately 17 miles east-northeast of Lovelock, Nevada and encompasses much of the Rochester National Register Eligible Historic District. The Wilco project area is located approximately 16 miles northeast of Lovelock, Nevada and includes a segment of the California National Historic Trail, that would not be directly impacted. The project areas have an extensive history of mining and exploration, with work having been performed by numerous companies and individuals in the past. RPG has been doing notice level exploration in these areas for several years. The Plans of Operation are to expand their exploration in these areas and would occur over several years. The exploration activities proposed for the Lincoln Hill and Wilco Plans of Operation include the following:

- A total disturbance of approximately 400 acres is proposed within the 22,324 acres encompassed by the two Plans of Operation that make up the Oreana Exploration Project EA;
- The Lincoln Hill Plan of Operations (N93830) proposes approximately 200 acres of disturbance, within its 12,725 acre Plan of Operation boundary (including 8,294 acres of public land and 5,102 acres of private land);
- The Wilco Plan of Operations (N93831) proposes approximately 200 acres of disturbance, within its 9,599 acre Plan of Operation boundary (4,608 acres of public land and 4,992 acres of private land);
- Installing meteorological monitoring stations;
- Constructing access roads;
- Constructing drill pads and sumps;

- Constructing drill roads;
- Overland travel;
- Laydown yard;
- Geotechnical test pits and trenches;
- Installation of groundwater monitoring wells;
- Installation of groundwater production wells, with estimated usage of up to 126,000 gallons per day needed for drilling and dust control in the two exploration areas.

The public is invited to submit comments relative to the development of an EA within 30 days of the date of this letter. Please send written comments to Mr. Lorence Busker, project manager, at the above address, or e-mail [wfoweb@blm.gov](mailto:wfoweb@blm.gov) with Oreana Exploration Project (Busker) in the subject line. This letter and a map are also available on the webpage at <http://1.usa.gov/1VuTawv>. In addition, copies of the RPG Lincoln Hill and Wilco Plans of Operations are available for review at the Winnemucca District during regular business hours.

Also, the public is invited to submit comments related to historic preservation issues, as prescribed in the Title 54 United States Code (U.S.C) 300301, et. seq., commonly known as the National Historic Preservation Act of 1996 as amended (NHPA), and Title 54 U.S.C. 306108, commonly known as Section 106 of the NHPA. The same contact information should be used for these comments as for the environmental assessment.

Public comments submitted for this environmental assessment, 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. Lorence Busker at (775) 623-1500 or at the above address.

Sincerely,

/S/ Aron C. King

Aron C. King  
Field Manager  
Humboldt River Field Office