



Marigold Mine Mackay Optimization Project Overview

General Information

- The BLM, Winnemucca District, Humboldt River Field Office is the lead agency for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and has decided to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project.
- Marigold Mining Company (MMC) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Silver Standard Marigold Inc. whose parent company Silver Standard Resources Inc. is the project proponent.
- The Proposed Action is comprised of three connected actions requiring a Federal Action/Decision:
 - Mine Expansion;
 - 120-kV Transmission Line Realignment Right-of-Way; and
 - Buffalo Valley Road Realignment Right-of-Way.

Project Overview

The proposed project modification is located at the existing Marigold Mine in the northern Battle Mountain Range, in Humboldt County, Nevada, approximately 35 miles southeast of Winnemucca, Humboldt County, Nevada; and 13 miles northwest of Battle Mountain, Lander County, Nevada. Proposed changes to the existing mine include the following:

- Total authorized surface disturbance at the mine with this proposal would increase from approximately 5,720 to 7,613 acres. The 1,893 acres of new disturbance would consist of approximately 843 acres on public land and 1,050 acres on private land.
- Expansion, deepening, and combining of four pits (Target 1, Target 2, Target 3, and East Hill) to become a single, large open pit to be called the Mackay Pit.
- Expansion, deepening, and combining of two open pits (Terry Zone North and Section 8) to become a single, large open pit to be called the Mackay North Pit.
- Increase the size of the authorized Section 5 North Pit.
- Dewatering of the Mackay and Mackay North Pits at a rate of up to 6,000 gallons per minute (gpm) with an average rate of about 3,000 gpm.
- Construction and operation of six rapid infiltration basins (RIBs) with associated roads, pipelines, and monitoring wells.
- Construct and operate new production, dewatering, and monitoring wells with associated roads, power, and above-ground pipelines.
- Creation of one new waste rock storage area (Section 5 North) and expansion of two WRSAs (Northeast and Northwest Expansion).
- Construct and operate heap leach processing pad (HLP) cells 22, 23, and 24.
- Construct new process ponds on existing disturbance.
- Construct two new carbon column trains on existing disturbance.
- Relocate the county road, called Buffalo Valley Road, to accommodate the mine changes.
- Re-establish a private land access road to land holdings in Section 30.
- Move the planned location of the authorized but not yet constructed utility corridor.
- Relocate the existing 120-kV power line (Right-of-Way held by NV Energy).
- Increase the mine life by up to ten years as a result of the above optimization strategies.

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The Mackay and Mackay North open pits would have a combined length of approximately 15,000 feet and have a maximum width up to 5,000 feet. These pits are proposed to extend below the water table at seven separate locations. Six of the locations are planned to be backfilled above the water table but the seventh would create a pit lake that is currently estimated to be less than 200 surface acres in size and approximately 500 feet deep.

Agency lead for Project action:

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