

Affected Resources Form: NEPA Document DOI-BLM-

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Chapter 1. Background on Peppertree's Searchlight Project

1.1. Project Information

NEPA (ePlanning) Number	DOI-BLM-NV-S010-2010-0180-EA
Project Name	Searchlight Project
Project Lead/Manager	George Varhalmi
Project/Activity Type	Mining Plan of Operations (Exploratory Drilling)
Case File Number	N-87918
Comment Due Date	September 9, 2010
Applicant/Proponent	Peppertree Constuction & Mining Corporation
Cost Code	L19900000.EX0000
General Location	East of Searchlight
Legal Description	T. 28 S., R. 63 E., Sections 25 & 36 and T. 28 S., R. 64 E., Sections 30 & 31
Map (7.5–mintue USGS topo map)	2 Quads: (1) Searchlight, Nevada, (2) Fourth of July Mountain
Amount of new disturbance (acres)	0.77
Amount of previous disturbance (acres)	2.00
Amount of TOTAL disturbance (acres)	2.77
Duration of project	2010 — 2015
Tiered off EA/EIS/BO/ other	

Description:

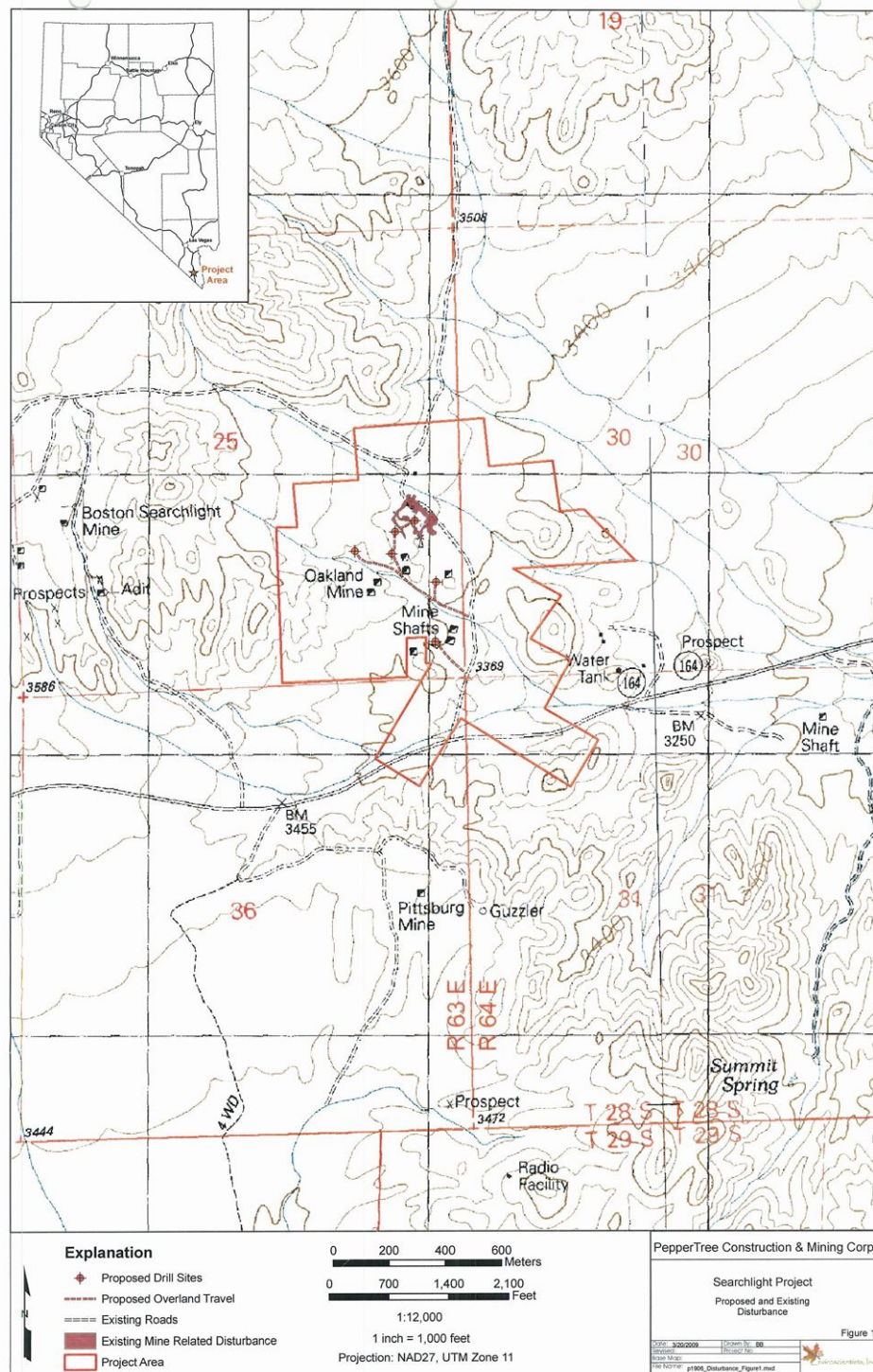
Peppertree Construction & Mining Corporation (Peppertree) has submitted a Plan of Operation (Plan), serialized N–87918, to conduct exploratory drilling east of Searchlight, Nevada. Peppertree was previously authorized under a mining notice in the same area, N–71921, which expired in March 2004. The Plan was submitted to cover future activity and existing disturbance. A Plan is also required because desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) was found on the site during a site visit. All mining activity is proposed on BLM administered public lands within lands surrounding Searchlight that are open to mineral entry and development.

This Plan will disturb a total of 2.77 acres of public lands and are located in sections 25 and 36, T. 28 S., R. 63 E., M.D.M. and sections 30 and 31, T. 28 S., R. 64 E., M.D.M. (see figures). Out of this disturbance, 2.00 acres are pre-existing disturbances and 0.77 acres will be new disturbance. The new disturbances will be created through (1) overland travel which will be 2,800' linear feet of two track access road (equaling 0.64 acres) and (2) 6 drilling pads with associated sumps (equaling 0.13 acres).

The proposed operation is approximately two miles east of Searchlight, Nevada. Access to the site is via an existing RS2477 road off of Cottonwood Cove Road. The operator will drill 6 drill holes to an approximate depth of 300'. The exploration and reclamation activity is expected to last approximately 5 years. Reclamation will occur concurrently with the exploration activity and would entail reclaiming existing mining disturbances which are not involved with the drilling operation (i.e. equipment or immediate location). The concurrent reclamation will focus on

removing structures not necessary for drilling, earthwork and securing existing mining hazards. The concurrent reclamation will begin once the Plan is approved. Disturbances associated with the drilling activity will be reclaimed prior to moving on to the next drilling location. The drill holes will be closed in accordance with State of Nevada Regulations.

This Plan is submitted to the BLM for review and approval in accordance with the regulatory requirements contained in 43 CFR 3809, pertaining to mineral operations conducted on public land under the Mining Law of 1872, 30 U.S.C. 22 et seq.



Map 1.1. [Topographic Map \(click here for large format\)](#)

Figure 1.1. Topographic map showing location of the existing claims held by Peppertree Construction, the existing disturbances, and their proposed drilling locations. Figure provided by Enviroscientists, Inc.



Map 1.2. [Aerial Map \(click here for large format\)](#)

Figure 1.2. Aerial map showing locations of existing structures on their claim group. Figure provided by Enviroscientists, Inc.

DETERMINATION OF STAFF: (Choose one of the following abbreviated options for the left column)

NP = not present in the area impacted by the proposed or alternative actions

NI = present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required

PI = present with potential for relevant impact that need to be analyzed in detail in the EA

Table 1.1. Affected Resources Form

Deter- mina- tion	Resource	Rationale for Determination	Digital check off	Date
	Air Quality			
	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern			
	BLM Natural Areas			
	Cultural Resources			
	Greenhouse Gas Emissions			
	Environmental Justice			
	Farmlands (Prime or Unique)			
	Fish and Wildlife Excluding Federally Listed Species			
	Floodplains			
	Fuels/Fire Management			
	Geology / Mineral Resources/Energy Production	Claims are actively maintained, Plan of Operations has been reviewed and is complete and ready for its NEPA review.	George Varhalmi	8/9/2010
	Hydrologic Conditions			

	Invasive Species/ Noxious Weeds			
	Lands/Access			
	Livestock Grazing			
	Migratory Birds			
	Native American Religious Concerns			
	Paleontology			
	Rangeland Health Standards			
	Recreation			
	Socio-Economics			
	Soils			
	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species			
	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species			
	Wastes (hazardous or solid)			
	Water Resources/ Quality (drinking/ surface/ground)			
	Wetlands/Riparian Zones			
	Wild and Scenic Rivers			
	Wilderness/WSA			
	Woodland / Forestry			
	Vegetation Excluding Federally Listed Species			
	Visual Resources			
	Wild Horses and Burros			
	Areas with Wilderness Characteristics			