

## 4.0 Consultation and Coordination

This chapter provides a review of consultation and coordination with agency and public entities that has occurred prior to and during the development of this EIS.

### 4.1 Public Participation and Scoping

This section summarizes the consultation and coordination activities between the BLM and various federal agencies, state agencies, local agencies, non-governmental organizations, and individuals that occurred during the development of this EIS. Agency consultation and public participation have been accomplished through a variety of formal and informal methods, including scoping meetings, responses to e-mails, and meetings with individual public agencies and interest groups.

In order to identify agency requirements and public concerns related to the proposed project the BLM has conducted a public involvement process that is intended to 1) broaden the base of available information to support decision making, 2) inform the public about proposed actions and the potential impacts resulting from those actions, and 3) ensure that public concerns and needs are understood and addressed by agency decision makers.

The CEQ through NEPA requires the BLM to provide opportunities for the public to participate at four specific points in the EIS process: the initial project scoping period, the review and comment period of the Draft EIS, the review of the Final EIS, and the receipt of the ROD. These opportunities are defined as follows:

- **Scoping:** The public is provided a 30-day scoping period to disclose potential concerns and issues associated with the Proposed Action. Information obtained by the BLM and other agencies during the public scoping period is combined with issues identified by lead and cooperating agencies. The summarization of these issues form the scope of the alternatives and analysis in the EIS.
- **Draft EIS Comment Period:** A minimum 45-day Draft EIS comment period is initiated by the publication of an NOA for the Draft EIS in the FR. Members of the public are encouraged to provide comments on the Draft EIS via email or hardcopy to the address listed in the NOA. These public comments are combined with comments from the lead and cooperating agencies to form the basis for revising the Draft EIS into the Final EIS.
- **Final EIS Review:** A 30-day Final EIS availability period is initiated by the publication of the NOA for the Final EIS in the FR.
- **ROD:** Subsequent to the 30-day availability period for the Final EIS, the ROD would be prepared.

#### 4.1.1 Scoping

The BLM initiated the public scoping process by publishing a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS in the FR on September 9, 2015 (FR Volume 80, Number 174). Public scoping meetings were held on September 29, 2015, in Battle Mountain, Nevada; and September 30, 2015, in Elko, Nevada, to obtain input on issues and concerns to be evaluated in the EIS. The public scoping meetings were conducted in an open house format. Attendees were provided information about the project and given an opportunity to ask resource specialists and BLM representatives questions, as well as express their concerns.

The BLM received a total of 12 comment submittals (e.g., letter, comment form, or email) during the scoping period, resulting in a total of 131 comments and questions. Most of the comments the BLM received were from federal and state agencies. Scoping comments were used to help determine the scope of issues to be addressed and help identify the significant issues related to the Proposed Action. The Public Scoping Summary Report for this EIS (BLM 2015e) provides a detailed table listing each individual comment, its source, and where the comment would be addressed in the EIS. **Table 4-1** details the distribution of scoping comments by organization.

**Table 4-1. Scoping Comments Distribution**

Commenting Organization Name	Total Number of Comments
Public Citizens (3)	13
Nevada State Historic Preservation Office	3
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water Pollution Control	3
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection	3
Nevada Backcountry Hunters and Anglers	11
Coalition for Nevada Wildlife	7
Nevada Governor’s Office of Economic Development	4
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	54
Western Shoshone, Te-Moak Tribe, Battle Mountain Band Council	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>131</b>

Key issues identified during the scoping process included:

- Impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat;
- Impacts to mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) migration areas;
- Impacts to greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) and habitat;
- Impacts to surface and groundwater resources;
- Socioeconomic impacts;
- Impacts to cultural resources;
- Impacts to Native American traditional values;
- Cumulative impacts resulting from the approved action and other actions within the project vicinity.

**4.1.2 Public Review of the Draft EIS**

The Draft EIS is available for a 45-day public review and comment period from the date the NOA is published in the FR. Public meetings were held in Battle Mountain and Elko, Nevada during the 45-day comment period.

**4.2 Consultation and Coordination with Federal, State, and Local Agencies, and Tribal Nations**

Issues related to agency consultation and review included mining regulation and reclamation, biological resources, cultural resources, socioeconomics, air quality, and land and water management. Cultural resource consultations apply to the potential for impacts to important historic, archaeological, or traditional sites important to Native Americans. A Memorandum of Agreement between the BLM and Nevada SHPO would be utilized for the Section 106 process and this project.

The USEPA provided comments on a wide variety of topics including the development of alternatives, mitigation measures, surface water and groundwater quality and quantity, waste rock characterization and placement, closure and reclamation, air quality, waters of the United States, sensitive species, environmental justice, and socioeconomics.

The USFWS has participated as a cooperating agency during the development of the Draft EIS. The USFWS has provided input on the potential for federally listed, proposed, and candidate species to occur within the project area. The USFWS also reviewed baseline information regarding biological resources within the proposed project area including the applicant's Bird and Bat Conservation Strategy (BBCS). The USFWS also provided input on the potential for migratory birds, bald eagles, and golden eagles to occur within the project area in addition to the necessary steps the applicant should take to comply with the BGEPA and the MBTA.

As the state agency with jurisdiction and special expertise related to impacts on wildlife, NDOW participated as a cooperating agency in the preparation of this EIS. NDOW was primarily concerned with the placement of the Dawn Pit, QLC Pit, Dawn WRDF, and QLC WRDFs relative to big game movement corridors through the proposed project area in addition to potential impacts to greater sage-grouse. NDOW also provided information on mule deer migration corridors, as well as information on sage-grouse, mule deer, and pronghorn antelope (*Antilocapra americana*) use areas.

The Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team (SETT), also participated as a cooperating agency for this EIS. SETT is part of the Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Program, a multi-disciplinary program established to protect and enhance the sagebrush landscape and habitat dependent species such as the greater sage-grouse.

In addition, the Elko County Commission also agreed to participate as a cooperating agency to review an analysis of the socioeconomic impact of mining on the county.

Executive Order 13084 directs the BLM to establish regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with Native American Tribal governments on the development of regulatory policies and permit approvals for proposed projects that could significantly or uniquely affect tribal communities. On September 28, 2015 the BLM sent letters to the following tribes, bands, and interested parties notifying them of the project:

- Battle Mountain Band Council;
- Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation;
- Elko Band Council;
- Duckwater Shoshone Tribe;
- Ely Shoshone Tribe;
- Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation;
- South Fork Band Council;
- Te-Moak Tribe of the Western Shoshone;
- Wells Band Council;
- Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation;
- Fort McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Tribes of Nevada and Oregon;
- Timbisha Shoshone Tribe of Death Valley;
- Yomba Shoshone Tribe; and
- Other Interested Parties:
  - Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA);
  - Western Shoshone Committee;
  - Western Shoshone Defense Project;
  - Western Shoshone Descendants of Big Smoky Valley.

The BLM presented project information and maps to the Chairpersons of the Te-Moak and Battle Mountain Band Tribal councils on November 24, 2015. The BLM also provided information regarding the proposed project to members of the Western Shoshone Committee on January 22, 2016, and the Elko Band Council on January 27, 2016. In addition, Native American field trips to the proposed project area occurred on December 28, 2015, and January 6, 2016. The field visits provided an opportunity for the

tribes and bands to view the proposed project area and identify any sites or places that may be of tribal importance. Any specific information provided by tribal members concerning Native American traditional use and/or spiritual sites in or near the proposed project area would remain confidential. Consultation with the contacted tribes and bands is ongoing and would continue as long as necessary. The tribes were provided a copy of the draft ethnographic report to comment on prior to submittal to the BLM. The draft report submitted to the BLM included any tribal comments. A summary of Native American consultation and coordination for the Rossi Mine Expansion Project EIS is provided in **Table 3.6-1** in Section 3.6, Native American Traditional Values.

### 4.3 List of Contacts

The following agencies, businesses, organizations, and individuals were contacted during the preparation of the Draft EIS.

#### 4.3.1 Federal Agencies

- Bureau of Land Management – Nevada State Office, Reno
- Bureau of Land Management – Washington, D.C.
- Bureau of Reclamation – Carson City, NV
- Office of Public Affairs – Washington, D.C.
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Reno, NV
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Sacramento, CA
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service – Fallon, NV
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest – Elko, NV
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Ruby Mountain/Jarbidge Ranger Stations – Wells, NV
- U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs – Washington, D.C.
- U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance – Washington, D.C.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Las Vegas, NV
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – San Francisco, CA
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Federal Activities – San Francisco, CA
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Federal Activities – Washington, D.C.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Reno, NV
- U.S. Post Office – Elko, NV
- U.S. Post Office – Tuscarora, NV

#### 4.3.2 State Agencies

- Great Basin College, USDA Cooperative Extension Service
- Nevada Commission on Tourism, Motorsports Manager
- Nevada Department of Agriculture
- Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team
- Nevada Department of Transportation – Carson City, NV
- Nevada Department of Transportation – Elko, NV
- Nevada Division of Environmental Protection/Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation
- Nevada Division of Forestry

- Nevada Division of Minerals
- Nevada Division of Water Resources
- Nevada Department of Wildlife
- Nevada Mining Association
- Nevada State Clearing House
- Nevada State Historic Preservation Office
- University of Nevada, Cooperative Extension, Area of Natural Resources
- University of Nevada-Reno – Department of Mining Engineering
- University of Nevada-Reno – Department of Range, Wildlife, and Forestry

#### **4.3.3 Elected Officials**

- Theodore Beutel – Eureka County District Attorney
- John Ellison – State Assemblyman, Elko and Eureka Counties, NV
- Joe Heck – U.S. Representative
- Shelly Berkeley – U.S. Representative
- Dean Heller – U.S. Senator
- Harry Reid – U.S. Senator
- Catherine Cortez Masto – U.S. Senator
- City Mayor – Carlin, NV
- City Mayor – Elko, NV

#### **4.3.4 Local Agencies**

- City of Carlin
- City of Elko
- City of Wells
- Elko Chamber of Commerce
- Elko City Manager
- Elko City Planning Board
- Elko County Board of Commissioners
- Elko County Commission
- Elko County Commissioner
- Elko County Public Works Department
- Elko County School District
- Elko Public Land Use Planning Commission
- Eureka County Commissioners
- Eureka County Department of Natural Resources
- Eureka County Public Land Advisory Commission
- Humboldt County Board of Commissioners
- Humboldt River Basin Water Authority
- Lander County Clerk
- Lander County Planning Commission
- Mountain City, Nevada Post Office
- Owyhee Post Office

#### **4.3.5 Tribal Organizations**

- Battle Mountain Band Council
- Bureau of Indian Affairs – Eastern Nevada Agency
- Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation
- Duckwater Shoshone Tribe
- Elko Band Council
- Ely Shoshone Tribe
- Goshute Business Council
- South Fork Band Council
- Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone
- Wells Band Council
- Western Shoshone Committee
- Western Shoshone Defense Council
- Western Shoshone Defense Project
- Western Shoshone Descendants of Big Smoky Valley
- Yomba Shoshone Tribe
- Timbisha Shoshone Tribe of Death Valley
- Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation
- Fort McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Tribes of Nevada and Oregon

#### **4.3.6 Media Outlets and Libraries**

- Elko County Library
- Eureka County Library
- Great Basin College Library
- Lander County Library
- Nevada State Library
- Nevada State Library and Archives
- University of Nevada Libraries, Business and Government Information Center
- University of Nevada-Las Vegas, James Dickinson Library
- University of Nevada-Reno, Delamare Library

#### **4.3.7 Private Organizations and Companies**

In addition, a total of 34 private companies, 89 non-governmental organizations, and 36 private citizens were contacted during the preparation of the Draft EIS.

## 5.0 List of Preparers and Reviewers

### 5.1 Bureau of Land Management EIS Team

<b>Resource/Responsibility</b>	<b>Name</b>
BLM Project Lead, Geology and Minerals, Paleontology, Noise, Socio-economics, Environmental Justice	Janice Stadelman
Water, Soils, Air, Climate Change	John Daniel
Range, Vegetation	John Mitchell
Cultural Resources	Ryan Brown
Wildlife, Special-Status Species, Wetlands, Riparian	Nycole Burton
Lands and Realty	Elizabeth Puentes
Recreation	Mike Setlock
Visual, Wilderness, Wilderness Characteristics	Mike Setlock
Native American Traditional Values	Ryan Brown
Hazardous and Solid Wastes	Tom Schmidt
Noxious Weeds and Non-native Invasive Plant Species	Samantha Cisney
Air Quality Modeling	Tom Coulter
Cooperating Agency – Nevada Department of Wildlife	Lindsey Lesmeister
Cooperating Agency – Elko County Commissioner	Randy Brown, Eleanor O'Donnell
Cooperating Agency – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Steve Abele, Chris Nicolai
Cooperating Agency – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Jamey Watt, Patrick Kelly

## 5.2 ICF EIS Team (Third Party NEPA Consultant)

Resource/Responsibility	Name
Project Director	Alan Rabinoff
Project Manager	Scott Duncan
Deputy Project Manager	Andrew Newman
Surface and Groundwater, Geology and Minerals, Geochemistry	Patrick Plumley (Plumley & Associates Inc.)
Soils and Reclamation	Gary Clendenin, Diana Roberts
Air Quality, Climate Change and Energy	David Ernst
Air Quality Modeling	Sharon Douglas
Range, Recreation, Wilderness, Paleontological	Dan Nally
Cultural, Native American Traditional Values	Karen Crawford
Ethnography	Terry McBride, Michelle Tiley, PhD (Community Pasts)
Wildlife, Special Status Species	Kristin Salamack
Vegetation, Wetlands, Riparian, Noxious Weeds and Non-native Invasive Plant Species	Lucas Bare
Land Use	Kim Stevens
Visual	Jennifer Stock, Tim Messick
Socioeconomics, Environmental Justice	Alex Uriarte, Will Cooper
Hazardous and Solid Wastes	Tanya Copeland
Noise	Dave Buehler
Lead Geospatial Analyst	Brent Read

## 5.3 Halliburton Energy Services Reviewers

Title	Name
Geologist/Environmental Specialist	Klete Fallowfield
Haynes Boone Legal Council	Michael Hegarty
Haynes Boone Legal Council	Chris Reagen
Haynes Boone Legal Council	Kathleen Repko
Haynes Boone Legal Council	Kimberly Wise



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