

Scott Carey

From: NevadaClearinghouse
To: Sue Gaskill
Subject: RE: Nevada State Clearinghouse Notice E2021-050 (E2021-050 SCOPING USFS South Jerriitt Exploration Project - Elko County)

From: Sue Gaskill <sgaskill@water.nv.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2020 8:16 AM
To: Amanda Brownlee <abrownlee@water.nv.gov>; NevadaClearinghouse <NevadaClearinghouse@lands.nv.gov>
Cc: Chris Thorson <cthorsen@water.nv.gov>; Thomas Pyeatte <tpyeatte@water.nv.gov>
Subject: RE: Nevada State Clearinghouse Notice E2021-050 (E2021-050 SCOPING USFS South Jerriitt Exploration Project - Elko County)

NEVADA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Division of State Lands
901 S. Stewart St., Ste. 5003, Carson City, Nevada 89701-5246
(775) 684-2723 Fax (775) 684-2721

TRANSMISSION DATE: 09/03/2020

U.S. Forest Service

Nevada State Clearinghouse Notice E2021-050

Project: E2021-050 SCOPING USFS South Jerriitt Exploration Project - Elko County

The Mountain City, Ruby Mountains, Jarbidge Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for Jerriitt Canyon Gold LLC's (Jerriitt) South Jerriitt Exploration Project (Project) administered by the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (USFS) and private land in Elko County, Nevada. This notice serves as the invitation to provide scoping comments as provided for under the NEPA at 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1500, and notification of opportunity to comment as provided for under the USFS' administrative review regulations at 36 CFR 218.24.

The proposal is an exploration-only program that consists of drilling for locatable precious metals over the next seven years. Exploration activities would include the following under this Project: temporary road and drill pad construction, exploration drill holes, monitor wells, trenching and sumps. Through the duration and completion of the Project, no more than 500 acres of total surface disturbance would be exceeded. For additional information and to view project information please visit https://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=58700. Comments due to the Clearinghouse on October 2, 2020.

Follow the link below to find information concerning the above-mentioned project for your review and comment.

E2021-050 - <http://clearinghouse.nv.gov/public/Notice/2021/E2021-050.pdf>

- Please evaluate this project's effects on your agency's plans and programs and any other issues that you are aware of that might be pertinent to applicable laws and regulations.
- Please reply directly from this e-mail and attach your comments.
- Please submit your comments no later than Friday October 2nd, 2020.

[Clearinghouse project archive](#)

Questions? Scott Carey, Program Manager, (775) 684-2723 or nevadaclearinghouse@state.nv.us

☐ No comment on this project ☐ Proposal supported as written

AGENCY COMMENTS:

Nevada State Clearinghouse

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

901 South Stewart Street, Suite 5003

Carson City, NV 89701

775-684-2723

<http://clearinghouse.nv.gov>

www.lands.nv.gov

DATE: September 9, 2020

Division of Water Resources

Nevada SAI # E2021-050

Project: E2021-050 SCOPING USFS South Jerriett Exploration Project - Elko County

☐ No comment on this project ☒ Proposal supported as written

AGENCY COMMENTS:

General:

All Nevada water laws must receive full compliance.

All water used on a project must be permitted by the State Engineer's Office.

All waters of the State belong to the public and may be appropriated for beneficial use pursuant to the provisions of Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapters 533 and 534 and not otherwise.

The State Engineer must permit all water used on the described project.

Water diversions from any surface source must comply with the permitting provisions of Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 533.

Water diversions from any underground source must comply with the permitting provisions of NRS 533 and 534.

Any transfer of water rights may be submitted to the State Engineers office as per NRS 533.384. The State Engineer is authorized and is responsible for maintaining water right files and accompanying documents as per NRS Chapters 111, 240, 375, 532, 533 and 534.

No use of any water required in support of this project, from any source, is allowed without the benefit of a permit or waiver issued by the Nevada Division of Water Resources.

Water for Construction Projects

Any water developments constructed and utilized for a beneficial use whether surface or underground must be done so in compliance with the referenced chapters of the NRS.

Ensure that any water used on a project for any use shall be provided by an established utility or under permit or temporary change application or waiver issued by the State Engineer's Office with a manner of use acceptable for suggested projects water needs.

Wells and Boreholes

Water wells must be permitted, Monitor wells require a Waiver from the State Engineer's Office, and boreholes must be plugged within sixty (60) days after being drilled as required by NAC 534.4371. For the plugging of boreholes, all boreholes require a 20-foot surface plug by placing concrete grout, cement grout or neat cement from 20 feet below the surface to the surface, in addition to all other plugging requirements mandated by NAC 534.4371.

Any drillholes (water or monitor wells or boreholes) that may be located on either acquired or transferred lands are ultimately the responsibility of the owner of the property and must be plugged and abandoned as required in Chapter 534 of the Nevada Administrative Code.

Any replacement wells must also comply with NAC 534.4351 NAC 534.300.

If artesian water is encountered in any well or borehole it shall be controlled as required in NRS § 534.060(3). Abandoned wells need to be reported to the State Engineer's Office and must be plugged as required in NAC Chapter 534.

Orphaned wells must be plugged and abandoned as required in NAC Chapter 534.

A waiver for the use of groundwater from a new or existing water well may be allowed for the exploration phase, which may include drill pad construction, dust control/road work, oil and gas well and test well construction, and miscellaneous uses associated with this phase; however, a water right permit is required for any subsequent use of water beyond the exploration phase including, but not limited to, water used for the hydraulic fracturing process during the oil and gas well development stage.

Construction and abandonment of any well, monitoring well, borehole, instrumentation borehole, or any other type of borehole, including but not limited to any "shot" holes, must comply with the provisions of Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) Chapter 534 (Regulations for Water Well and Related Drilling).

All water sources used for exploration drilling, dust control, road construction, or for any other purpose must be permitted by the State Engineer.