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Title:

Comments: The Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife (Coalition) hereby submits the following comments regarding the proposed South Jerritt Exploration project. The Coalition was formed as the issue and policy arm of sportsmen/wildlife conservationists whose goal is to protect and enhance Nevada's wildlife resources. Our board of directors represent big game, fishing, waterfowl, upland game, sporting dog, and trapping organizations.

The proposed exploration project consisting of up to 1100 interconnected drill pads on 500 acres constructed over a period of seven (7) years does have adverse impacts to wildlife. While the Coalition strongly supports mining and multiple use of our public lands, we feel it is the duty of all to accurately identify and assess potential impacts and to provide appropriate mitigation to the extent possible.

The project area contains critical mule deer wintering range. The proposed activity would displace these animals at the time of year when additional migration movement takes a serious toll on already weakened animals. This is particularly serious in harsh winters. Some form of compensatory mitigation should be required.

The project area contains priority sage grouse habitat reflecting year-around winter, summer brood, and spring breeding habitats. We understand that no ground disturbing activities will be allowed from March through June; the document should be clarified to exclude drilling activities, not just road and pad construction. Since noise alone has been shown to adversely impact sage grouse, it is imperative that noise monitoring, modeling, and appropriate mitigation measures be required.

We have similar concerns over the adverse impacts to Lahontan Cutthroat Trout present in the numerous streams within the project area. The document is insufficiently detailed as to measures required for protection. In closing, the proposed project will adversely impact several important wildlife species, and the existing document lacks the specificity as to the potential extent of these impacts as well as the details of necessary mitigation. We strongly recommend these issues be addressed.

Thank you for your consideration.

The Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife

Larry J. Johnson - President (also Director of Nevada Outdoorsmen in Wheelchairs, and 30 yr. past director, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited)

Tom Smith - Vice President (also Director, Truckee River Flyfishers)

Joel Blakeslee - Director (also President, Nevada Trapper's Association)

Karen Boeger - Director (also Director, Back Country Hunters and Anglers)

Brunner, Bob - Director

Judi Caron - Director (also past President, Northern Nevada SCI)

Mike Cassiday - Director (also past President, Northern Nevada SCI)

Rex Flowers - Director (also former Washoe County Advisory Board)

John Hillenbrand - Director (also Director, Carson Valley Chukar Club)

Johnathan Lesperance - Director (also President, Nevada Sporting Dog Alliance)

Linda Linton, Esq. - Director

Willie Molini - Director (President, Nevada Waterfowl Association, and past Director of Nevada Department of Wildlife)

Jim Puryear -- Director (also Director, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited-Reno)

Bob Sack - Director (also Nevada Bow Hunters Association)

Sean Shea - Director (also member Nevada Outfitters and Guide Association)