John B. Walker  
Office of Community Services  
Capitol Complex  
Carson City, NV 89710  

Dear Mr. Walker,  

The Austin Ranger District is currently assessing the Art Wilson Company's Plan Of Operations for the Ellsworth Project to insure that it complies with the standards and guidelines in the Toiyabe National Forest's Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). The Ellsworth Project is located on the Paradise Mountain Range, fifty five miles southwest of Austin within Section 24, Township 13 North, Range 37 East, Section 30, Township 13 North, Range 38 East, and Section 10 & 11, Township 12 North, Range 37 East.  

The Forest Service encourages you to assist in the environmental analysis process by providing written comments on your concerns that pertain to the resource management on these claims. Comments can be submitted to the Austin District Ranger by March 20, 1990, at the following address: ROBERT L. VAUGHT, Austin Ranger District, Toiyabe National Forest, P.O. Box 130, Austin, NV 89310.  

Proposed Action:  

This plan proposes trenching and reworking of the claims as described in Plan of Operations #39011. Eight trenches, consisting of five new and three old, would be dug. One portal that is partially caved-in would be reopened, and if time permits, two existing prospect shafts would be cleaned out. Mitigation measures include: 1) Trenches dug would be shallow, and if no mineralization is found the trenches would be back filled, 2) Mine tunnel and or shafts opened would be barricaded and/or fenced when operation is completed, 3) All waste oil, grease, diesel fuel, would, upon completion of the operation, be removed from the project site, and 4) Any unanticipated reclamation work would be done in accordance with Forest Service regulations.
Preliminary Issues and Concerns

To date, the following issues and management concerns have been identified on the Ellsworth Project:

There is a potential for increased erosion on access roads if proper drainage is not installed.

There is potential for increased erosion on all disturbed areas if they are not reseeded prior to spring runoff.

If there is no any significant mineralization found, the smaller pit should be recontoured, so as to assimilate the natural slope and characteristics of the project area.

The proposed start up date is April 16, 1990. There is a potential for unnecessary surface damage, if the trenches are constructed prior to snow melt and surface drying.

Forest Plan Compliance

Visual Quality Objectives:

Partial Retention– Management practices are visually subordinate.

Modification– Management practices may have dominated the landscape but activities should appear as natural occurrences in the fore-and middle-ground.

Minerals Goals:

Mineral exploration and development will be encouraged while establishing reclamation policies that minimize or shorten the duration of impacts on renewable and nonrenewable surface resources.

Minerals Standards and Guidelines:

The standards and guidelines set forth in paragraphs 1 thru 24 on pages IV-57 thru IV-59 of the Forest Plan
AW 1 and AW 2 Lode Claims Location Map

ALE 1:24,000

Improved R. Unimproved Trail...