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United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

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ITEM 53

Winnemucca District
Winnemucca, Nevada

November 26, 1997



Florida Canyon Mine

Record of Decision and Plan of Operations Approval



COOPERATING AGENCIES:

Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources,
Division of Wildlife
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

FOR COMPLETE DOCUMENT SEE FILE

RECORD OF DECISION

FLORIDA CANYON MINE EXPANSION AND COMPREHENSIVE RECLAMATION PLAN

SUMMARY

Florida Canyon Mining, Inc. (FCMI) proposes to construct new facilities and expand existing gold mining operations within the Imlay Mining District in Pershing County, Nevada. The mine is located on public and private lands adjacent to Interstate Highway 80 approximately 35 miles northeast of Lovelock and approximately 38 miles southwest of Winnemucca, Nevada. FCMI has been operating the Florida Canyon Mine since 1986. Historical mining in the proposed project vicinity dates back to the 1860s.

A Plan of Operations for the Florida Canyon Mine was submitted to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in October 1985 and was approved in February 1986. Construction began in February 1986 with mining beginning in August 1986. Activities within the Florida Canyon Mine operations area have expanded periodically since production began in 1986. To date, approximately 1,259 acres have been disturbed.

The decision of the BLM District Manager, Winnemucca Field Office, is to accept the conclusions of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and select the Proposed Action as identified in the Final EIS titled *Florida Canyon Mine Expansion and Comprehensive Reclamation Plan and Plan of Operations Amendment 10*. The decision also confirms that the Final EIS satisfies the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements pursuant to the Surface Management Regulations at 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 3809 and the Use and Occupancy under the Mining Law Regulations at 43 CFR 3715. Implementation of this decision with the identified stipulations and mitigation measures will not cause undue or unnecessary degradation of the public lands.