

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

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Item 37



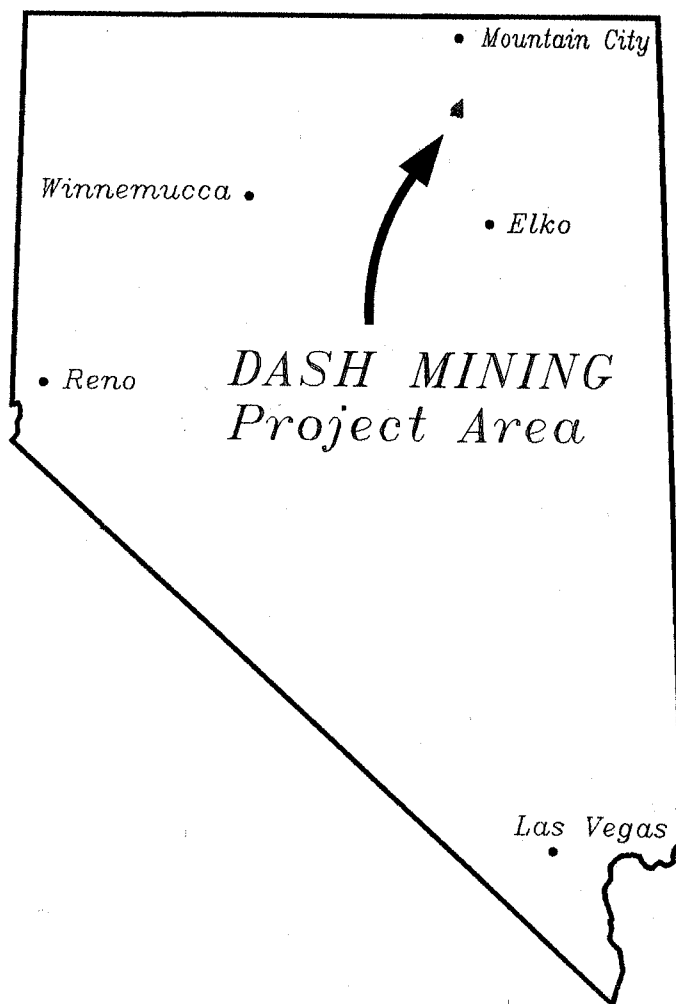
Humboldt National Forest

Scoping Document for the

DASH Mining Project Independence Mining Company Inc.

Elko County, Nevada

November 1994



HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST

SCOPING DOCUMENT DASH MINING PROJECT

NOVEMBER 1994

I. Introduction

This scoping document is part of the public involvement process for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed DASH Mining Project. The purpose of this document is to provide initial information on the proposed project and to invite your comments on the project. Public involvement is encouraged and is used for identifying issues which are relevant to this project.

The DASH Mining Project was proposed by Independence Mining Company Inc. (IMC) in a Plan of Operations (POO) submitted in September of 1994. This proposed project would expand IMC's existing gold mining operations at the Jerritt Canyon Mine in Elko County, Nevada (Map 1). The proposed mining project is situated on National Forest system lands administered by the Mountain City Ranger District, Humboldt National Forest (HNF) and private lands. The project would involve mining from two open pits and by underground methods, and development of associated waste rock dumps, a haul road system, ore stockpiles, facility sites, growth medium stockpiles, and drainage and sediment control structures. Other activities would include development and condemnation drilling within and adjacent to the mine areas.

The environmental analysis process is defined by the 1969 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and its implementing regulations. Because the proposed project may significantly effect the quality of the human environment, NEPA guidelines require that an EIS be prepared. The Forest Service will comply with NEPA by following a detailed analysis process. The results of this process will be documented in a draft and final EIS and are the basis for the Forest Service's decision. This decision will be documented in a Record of Decision. The alternative selected will be the basis for development of a final POO for the proposed project.

The Forest Service is the Lead Agency for the project. R.M. "Jim" Nelson, Acting Forest Supervisor of the Humboldt National Forest is the responsible official. Several government agencies will be invited to participate in this project as cooperating agencies, such as U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Nevada Department of Environmental Protection, Nevada Division of Wildlife, and Elko County Board of Commissioners. Participation as a cooperating agency is based upon their regulatory authority and special expertise.

Under the current budget and staffing level, it is not possible for the Humboldt National Forest to produce the EIS and still maintain the current program of work. Therefore, IMC has agreed to finance a third party contractor to conduct the necessary analysis and documentation. The Forest Service is responsible for the scope and content of the EIS.

II. Public's Role in Process

Public involvement in the EIS process is essential. Scoping is performed as one of the first steps in the EIS process to receive input from interested individuals, organizations and government agencies including federal, state, and local agencies. We invite you to submit written comments stating your concerns and issues relevant to the proposed project. Comments received on this scoping document, from public meetings, and from personal contacts will be used to help establish the scope of studies and analysis for the EIS.

To encourage public participation, the Forest Service will use a variety of techniques including media presentations, mailing of information to interested parties, public meetings, informal open houses and encouraging local government participation in the scoping process. We invite you to participate in the public meeting and informal meetings (See schedule below).

Public involvement will be ongoing throughout the analysis process, however, at certain times public input will be specifically requested. During initial scoping the public is requested to assist in identifying relevant issues. Written scoping comments should be received by December 19, 1994 to be used by the Forest Service in defining issues and determining the scope of the analysis to be performed. Comments should be sent to Forest Supervisor, Humboldt National Forest, 2035 Last Chance Road, Elko, NV 89801. To assist you in responding, a self-addressed comment sheet is attached. You must return this comment sheet or contact us if you want to remain on the mailing list for this project.

Public Involvement Schedule

November 14-18, 1994 - Mail out scoping document and publish Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS in Federal Register

December 12, 1994 - Public Meeting at Red Lion Inn and Casino, 2065 Idaho Street, Elko, NV, 7:00 p.m.

December 13, 1994 - Informal Open House, Independence School, Tuscarora, NV, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

December 14, 1994 - Informal Open House, Holiday Inn, 1000 Sixth Street, Reno, NV, 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

December 19, 1994 - Written scoping comments should be received by this date

June, 1995 - Draft EIS released; 45 day comment period and informal open houses and/or public meetings

September, 1995 - Final EIS and Record of Decision issued; 45 day appeal period

III. Project Description

The proposed DASH Mining project is located in the eastern Independence Mountain Range in all or parts of sections 12 and 13, T40N, R53E; sections 5,7,8,17 and 18, T40N, R54E; and section 32, T41N, R53E; Mount Diablo Meridian (Map 1). Mining activities would occur in two separate mine areas, the DASH mine area and the California Mountain mine area (Maps 2 & 3). These mine areas are located within the Sheep and Stump Creek drainages. As presently proposed, disturbance associated with the project would total approximately 700 acres.

Implementation of the mining activities described in the proposed Plan of Operations (POO) submitted by IMC are necessary for the continued and uninterrupted supply of gold bearing ore in an economically feasible manner to their milling operations. Mining activities proposed in the DASH project area would replace gold ore reserves that have been exhausted over the past fourteen years at the existing Jerritt Canyon mining operations. This expansion would enable IMC to maintain current operations.

DASH Mining project components were designed by IMC to be stable, practicable, economically feasible, and to reduce impacts to sensitive resources. These goals were accomplished through project layout and design, including use of sound engineering methods and Best Management Practices. Specific considerations used by IMC to achieve project objectives include: designing waste rock dumps as valley fills, utilizing existing roads where feasible, locating some project components in areas already disturbed or proposed to be disturbed, minimizing stream crossings, avoiding wetlands and waters of the US where feasible, and mining portions of the DASH deposit by underground methods.

In the DASH Mine Area, gold ore would initially be mined from a 150-acre open pit. Waste rock would be placed in as many as five waste rock dumps that would disturb a total of 250 acres. Waste rock dumps would be constructed in single or multiple lifts with slopes at angle of repose. Stability analyses of the waste rock dumps indicate that they meet the Forest Service minimum factors of safety for stability. To ensure the long term surface stability of the waste rock dumps, the angle of repose slopes would be armored with coarse and durable rock.

During and after open pit mining, deeper portions of the ore deposit would be mined by underground methods from portals located within the DASH pit. Disturbance associated with underground mining would include ventilation raises, backfill raises, backfill plants, and other surface disturbance that would encompass approximately 12 acres. Waste rock produced by underground mining would be used to partially backfill the DASH pit or be placed in waste rock dumps.

In the California Mountain Mine Area, open pit mining would take place in the 12 acre Northeast Extension (NEXT) pit. Waste rock from this pit would be used to partially backfill the existing California Mountain pit.

Ore from both pits and underground mining would be hauled to IMC's Jerritt Canyon millsite on a newly constructed four mile haul road along the range front and on the existing Jerritt Canyon Mine haul road network. During the initial phases of mining of the DASH pit, the existing Stump Creek exploration road would be widened to forty feet with turnouts to allow heavy equipment to access the DASH mine area. Other haul roads and access would be developed within the DASH mine area to access pits,

waste rock dumps, underground facilities and other project components. Altogether, haul roads and access roads would disturb approximately 130 acres.

Other mine components to be constructed under the proposed operation would disturb approximately 40 acres and would include ore and growth medium stockpiles, sediment control structures, diversion ditches, and other associated features. An additional 100 acres of ground would be surrounded by disturbance and is included in the 700 acre total.

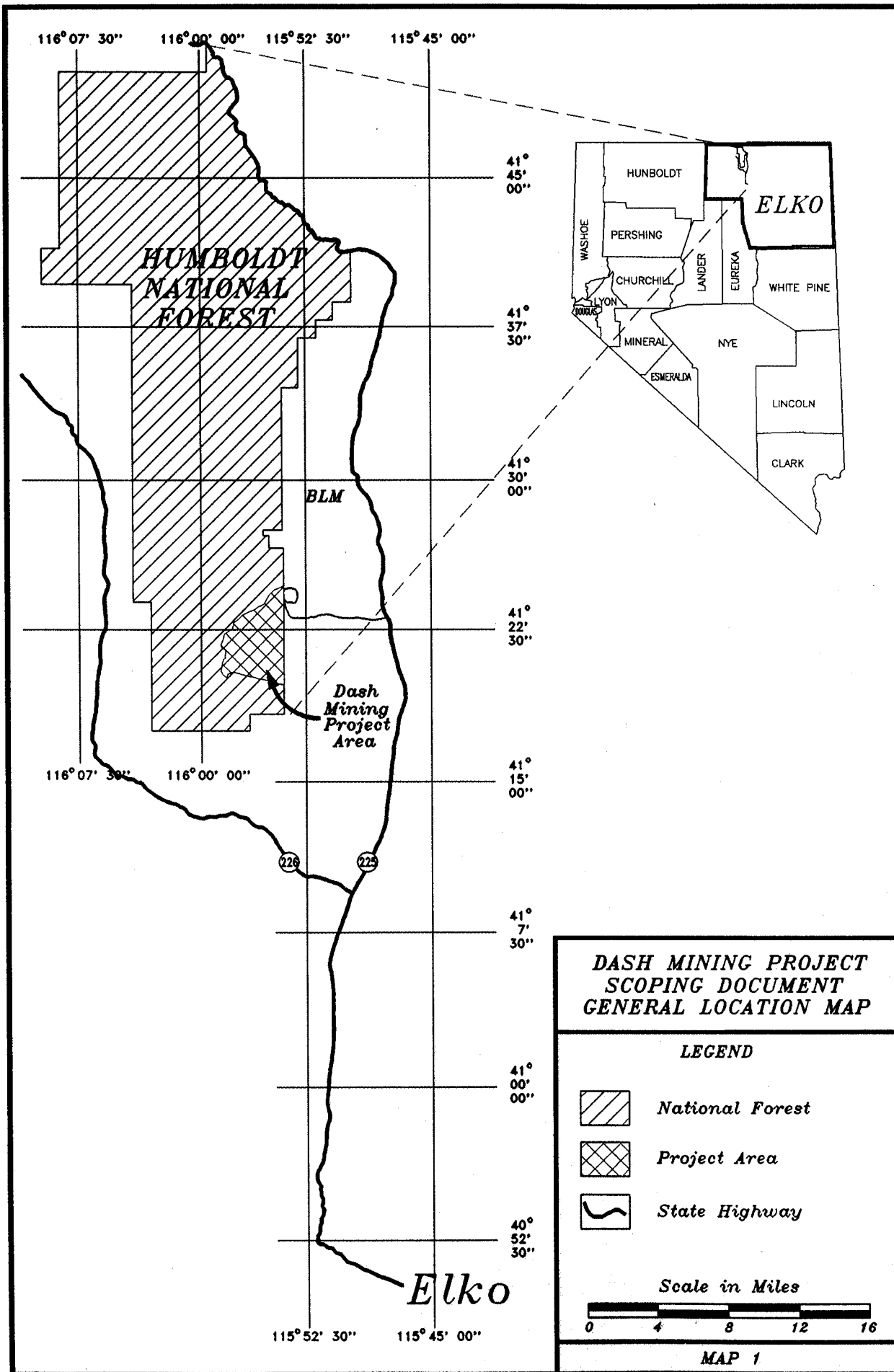
The proposed mine components would be reclaimed by a variety of methods. Concurrent reclamation and interim reclamation would occur during mining to the extent practicable, and final reclamation would generally occur within one year of the exhaustion of the mineral deposits. Pits would be left in a stable condition and accessible benches seeded. Roads used for access and haulage that are not designated for post-mining public access would be shaped to as near a natural contour as practicable, be stabilized and revegetated. Growth medium stockpile areas, sediment control structures, facilities sites and other disturbances would be reshaped, stabilized and revegetated. Relatively flat surfaces of waste rock dumps, partial pit backfill areas and some other disturbed areas would be revegetated by applying a minimum of eight inches of growth medium and reseeding. The seed mixtures used for revegetation would consist of grasses, forbs, and shrubs to stabilize disturbed sites and meet post-mining land use objectives. Tree and shrub planting would also occur in designated areas.

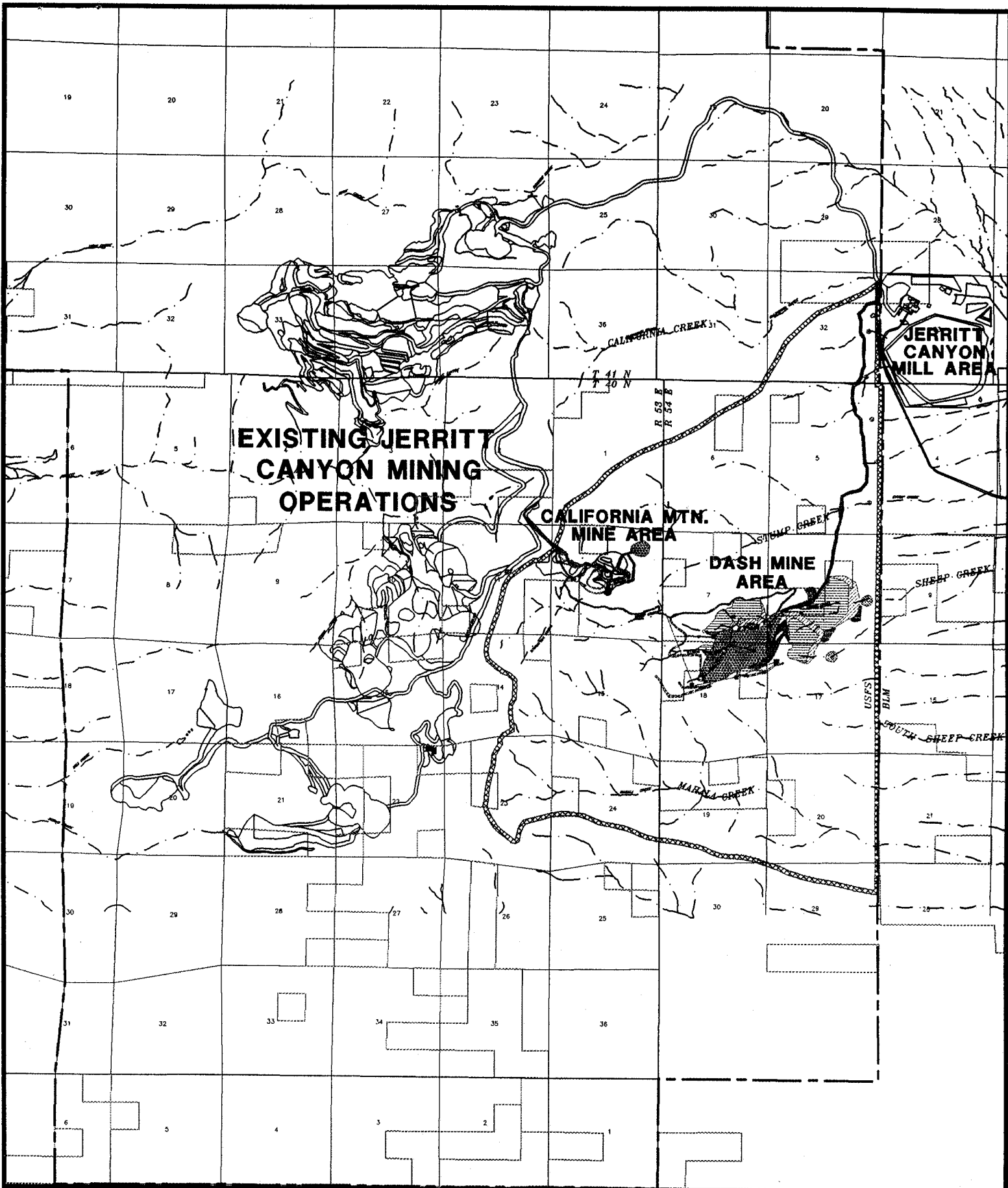
IV. Issues

The following are some potential issues identified through internal Forest Service scoping based on our experience with similar projects. The list is not considered all inclusive, but should be viewed as a starting point. We are asking you to help us further refine these issues and identify other issues or concerns relevant to the proposed project:

- * Effects to groundwater resources
- * Effects to surface water resources
- * Effects to vegetative resources
- * Effects on permitted livestock grazing
- * Effects to Waters of the United States, including wetlands
- * Effects to mine economics
- * Effects to threatened, endangered and sensitive plant and wildlife species
- * Effects to visual resources

Please direct any questions or requests for additional information to Mary Beth Marks, Project Team Leader, Humboldt National Forest, 2035 Last Chance Road, Elko, Nevada 89801. Phone 702-738-5171.





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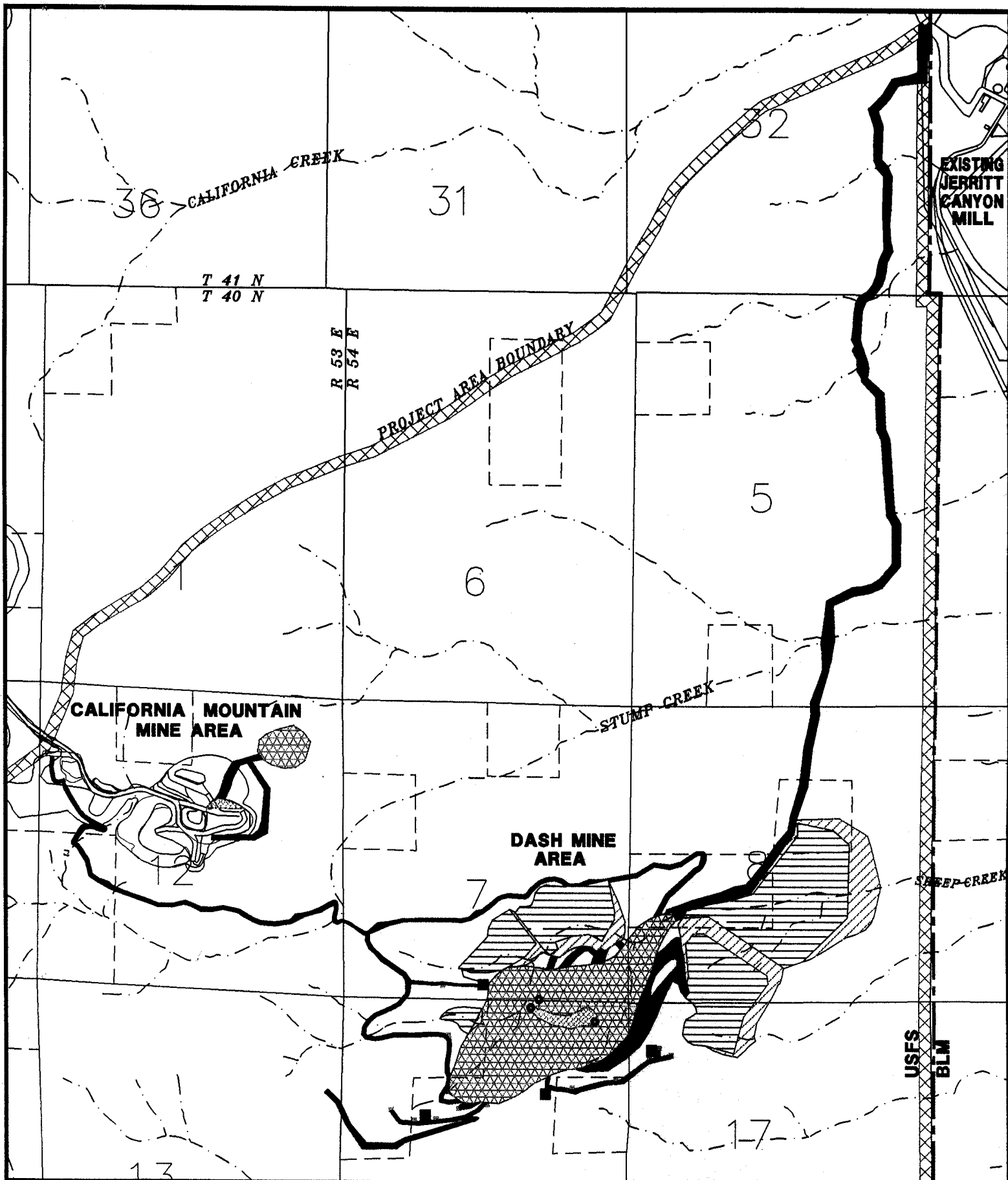
- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| USFS BOUNDARY | EXISTING/APPROVED DISTURBANCE |
| STREAMS (USGS) | DASH PROJECT PROPOSED DISTURBANCE |
| PRIVATE PROPERTY | PROJECT AREA BOUNDARY |

**DASH MINING PROJECT
SCOPING DOCUMENT**

EXISTING AND PROPOSED
MINING AREA

MAP 2

SCALE 1" = 6500'	DATE 11/8/94
PREPARED BY DOD	DRAWN BY DOD
11/8/94	11/94



- ☐ EXISTING/APPROVED DISTURBANCE
- ▨ DUMPS—ANGLE OF REPOSE SLOPES
- ▩ DUMPS—RELATIVELY FLAT SURFACES
- HAUL ROADS
- ▨ PARTIAL PIT BACKFILL AREAS

- ▨ PITS
- ☐ STREAMS (USGS)
- BACKFILL RAISES
- ⋈ VENT RAISES
- PORTAL AREAS

**DASH MINING PROJECT
SCOPING DOCUMENT**

PROPOSED ACTION

MAP 3

SCALE	1" = 2200'	DATE	11/4/94
PREPARED BY	OCG	DRAWN BY	OCG
	11/2/94		11/94
			SHEET
			404_P03_001

We have provided this page to assist you in replying to the DASH Mining Project scoping document. You do NOT have to use this space for your comments. If you would like to continue receiving information on this project, please respond back to us expressing your interest. This will help us by saving the cost of mailing and publications.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper appears to be a standard notebook page or a sheet of stationery. There is no handwriting or other markings on the page.

Name: _____

Address: _____

From: _____

STAMP

FOREST SUPERVISOR
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST
2035 LAST CHANCE ROAD
ELKO, NEVADA 89801