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United States
Department of
Agriculture

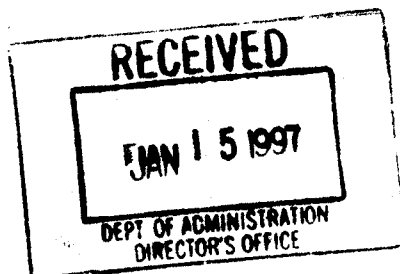
Forest
Service

HUMBOLDT N.F. - TOiyabe N.F.
2035 Last Chance Road
Elko, NV 89801 (702) 738-5171

ITEM 47A

FILE CODE: 1950

Date: January 13, 1997



Dear Reader:

The Forest Service has received two proposals from Independence Mining Company Inc. for continued exploration at its Jerritt Canyon Mine in Elko County, Nevada. The first proposal, Supplement #2 to the Mahala Creek Exploration Plan of Operations, calls for up to 50 miles of temporary exploration roads and associated drilling in the Mahala Creek and Jim Creek drainages. The second proposal, Supplement #15 to the South California Creek Exploration Plan of Operations, calls for up to 10 miles of temporary exploration road and associated drilling in the Sheep Creek and Stump Creek drainages.

The legal location for both projects is: T.40N., R54 E., Sections 7,8,18,19 and 20; T.40N., R.53E., Sections 13, 24 and 25; Mount Diablo Meridian.

Because the projects are adjacent to each other, we will be conducting one environmental analysis. At this time I am inviting your comments and suggestions on the two projects. Your comments should be addressed to me at the above address and to be most useful should be received no later than February 15, 1997. If requested, a copy of all comments provided in response to this letter will be made available to the public. This will include names, addresses, and any other personal information provided with the comments.

Please contact Doug Clarke, Project Coordinator, at (702) 738-5171 if you have any questions regarding these two projects.

Sincerely,

SCOTT W. BELL
District Ranger



