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QUAD_NAME	Black Butte NE 7.5'; Stormy Peak 7.5'
P_M_C_NAME (mine, claim & company names)	Big Ledge Mine; Spirit Minerals, LP Stormy Creek Mine; Consolation Mine
COMMODITY If not obvious	Barite
NOTES	Scoping letter
Location:	Digital only

Keep docs at about 250 pages if no oversized maps attached  
(for every 1 oversized page (>11x17) with text reduce  
the amount of pages by ~25)

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**Elko Field Office**

Date: September 7, 2007  
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ELKO FIELD OFFICE NO. 2007-108

**BARITE MINING PROJECT PROPOSED**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Elko Field Office is seeking public comment on a proposal from Spirit Minerals, LP. to mine barite at the Big Ledge Mine site in Elko County Nevada.

The Big Ledge Mine Project is about 28 miles northwest of Wells, Nevada, and about 34 miles southwest of Jackpot, Nevada in the Snake Range. A Mining Plan of Operations has been submitted and information on potential impacts and concerns is being gathered to complete an Environmental Assessment.

Barite was mined at the Big Ledge Mine in the late 1970s and early 80s. Other barite mines in the Snake Range are the Stormy Creek Mine and the Consolation Mine, both of which ceased operations in the early 1980s, after the price and demand for barite dropped dramatically.

The proposed Big Ledge Mine Project will have approximately 300 acres in the project area with known reserves expected to last approximately 3 years. Exploration to define further reserves is on going. Ore will be milled on site for shipping by truck to a processing plant in Evanston, Wyoming. Barite is primarily used as a heavy component of the drilling mud used by the oil and gas industry.

Written comments, issues or concerns should be sent to Big Ledge Exploration Project Coordinator, BLM Elko Field Office, 3900 Idaho Street, Elko, NV 89801, by the close of business on October 8, 2007. Comments will be used to guide the preparation of the environmental analysis, which will analyze the proposed action for the potential impacts and address issues and concerns.

The Proposed Big Ledge Mine Plan of Operations is available on line at [http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko\\_field\\_office/blm\\_programs/planning.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko_field_office/blm_programs/planning.html) or go to the BLM Elko Field Office home page, click on Programs, click on Planning, and then scroll down to Spirit Minerals Big Ledge Mine Plan of Operations (09/07/2007).

For questions or more information contact James Lindsay at (775) 753-0342, by email at [jlindsay@nv.blm.gov](mailto:jlindsay@nv.blm.gov), or mail to the BLM Elko Field Office.

-BLM-

Last updated: 04-07-2008