



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Bureau of Land Management

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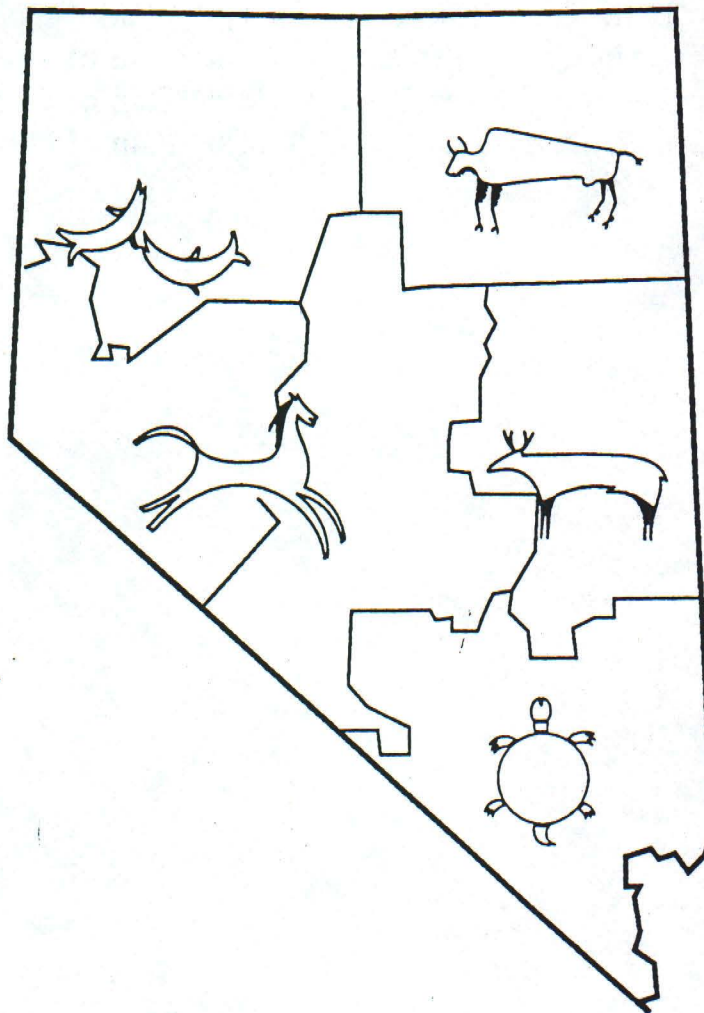
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ITEM 87

December 1996

## SUMMARY

# NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

## LAND USE PLANNING



## **NV - 020 Winnemucca District**

### **SUMMARY**

Resource Management Plans in Progress: **None**

Management Framework Plan Amendments in Progress: **One**

Environmental Impact Statements in Progress: **Four**

#### **Plan Amendments in Progress**

Paradise-Denio and Sonoma-Gerlach Lands Amendment

#### **Environmental Impact Statement**

Santa Fe Pacific Lone Tree Project

Santa Fe Pacific Twin Creeks Project

Santa Fe Pacific Trenton Canyon Project

Kinross Gold, Goldbanks Project

#### **Major Federal Action**

Mine Plan of Operation

Mine Plan of Operation

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Mine Plan of Operation



Winnemucca District

Document Name: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation, Lone Tree Mine  
Document Type: EA: \_\_\_\_\_ EIS: X Supplement: \_\_\_\_\_  
Draft: X Final: X ROD: X

Lead Agency: Bureau of Land Management

Project Coordinator: Gerald L. Moritz, Winnemucca District 702-623-1500

NEPA Contractor: Maxim Technology; Helena, Montana

**Project Description:** Santa Fe Pacific proposes to expand the existing Lone Tree Mine. The expansion will increase the size of the mine and expand the operations from Santa Fe Pacific's fee lands onto federal lands.

**Major Issues:** The major issue identified is the dewatering of the pit area and disposal of this water. Presently, the mine is dewatering at a rate of approximately 40,000 gallons per minute. This rate will increase to approximately 70,000 gallons per minute during the final phase of mining. Presently, the Lone Tree Mine is discharging water into the Iron Point Relief Canal which empties into the Humboldt River. The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection has set the standard that the temperature of discharge water cannot exceed that of the receiving water by 2° Centigrade. The discharge water averages about 84° Centigrade. To meet this standard, Lone Tree Mine opted to construct cooling ponds to cool the discharge waters prior to entering the Humboldt. They are presently constructing the first of three cells that will eventually total 660 acres of cooling ponds. Re-injection wells and infiltration ponds were considered as options to discharging, but due to the geology and soils in the vicinity, neither are viable options for this operation.

**Interested Publics:** AGRI-BEEF CO. Concerned about the effect of dewatering on livestock waters; George Penola, Rock Creek Ranch - same concern.

**Federal Register Citations:**

Notice of Intent: Vol. 59, No. 33, pages 8015-8016, February 17, 1994.

DEIS Notice of Availability: Vol. 60, No. 239, pages 64069-64070, December 13, 1995.

FEIS Notice of Availability: Vol. 61, No. 184, page 49476, September 20, 1996.

ROD Notice of Availability: Vol. 61, No. 208, page 55312, October 25, 1996.

**Schedule:** Final EIS was issued September 13, 1996. ROD was issued October 25, 1996. Two appeals were received November 22, 1996.