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Governor

STATE OF NEVADA
COMMISSION ON MINERAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF MINERALS
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Administrator

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COMMISSION ON MINERAL RESOURCES
City of Henderson Council Chambers
240 S. Water St. Henderson, NV 89015

Thursday, March 2, 2017

1:00 P.M.

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

The Agenda for this meeting of the Commission on Mineral Resources has been properly posted for this date and time in accordance with NRS requirement.

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Pursuant to N.R.S. 241, this time is devoted to comments by the public, if any, and discussion of those comments. No action may be taken upon a matter raised under this item on the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on a successive agenda and identified as an item for possible action. All public comments will be limited to 5 minutes for each person. **ACTION WILL NOT BE TAKEN**

I. MINUTES

- A. Approval of the November 1, 2016 meeting minutes

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

II. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC)

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

The NDEP and NDOM have discussed support to IMCC for services to the State including subscriptions to IMCC publications; IMCC special reports; IMCC memoranda and communiques; and work on the CERCLA 108b bonding issue. IMCC works on behalf of States on the Hard Rock-AML-Good Samaritan legislation, mining-specific ESA issues, and MSHA metal non-metal mine rescue and training grants from OSM. NDOM recommends partnering with NDEP-BMRR for \$2,500 each (total \$5,000/yr) for services rendered for these activities that benefit the State and Mining Industry in Nevada. This is not a request to re-join IMCC as an associate member. This expenditure was budgeted in the current biennium budget. Rich Perry 15 minutes

- B. UNR-MSM annual \$2 claim fee approval consideration **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**
Under the current 5-year agreement with the University, the Division collected \$394,086 in claim fees to support activities at the Mackay School. This was budgeted in the current biennium budget (\$351,293) under Special Projects. The Division has sufficient reserve to cover this item and recommends approval. Mike Visser 15 minutes

- C. NBMG annual scope of work and funding **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**
The Division and Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (NBMG) have discussed developing a contract for specific deliverables by NBMG for the 2018 fiscal year, pending legislative approval of the NDOM budget. These deliverables are:
1) Completion of the Annual Mineral Industry Report by December 1 of the following year so it can be used at annual trade shows,
2) Completion of the annual exploration survey every other year in preparation for the legislative session (alternative study in odd years)
3) Scanning and updating of oil, gas and geothermal well logs onto an existing public-searchable database maintained by NBMG, and
4) Archiving of oil, gas and geothermal cuttings at the NBMG GBSSRL consistent with NAC 522.215 and NAC 534A.310. Staff is requesting approval to prepare a contract for \$85,000 per year for the two-year biennium 2018-19. This contract would require approval by the Board of Examiners. NBMG has prepared a budget quote for this work, which is included.
Rich Perry and Jim Faulds 30 minutes

- D. Presentation of Intern Video and 2016 program review **FOR DISCUSSION ONLY**
Rob Ghiglieri and Garrett Wake 15 minutes

- E. NBMG Exploration Survey and update and approval of payment **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**
The Bureau recently completed an exploration survey in time for the 2017 legislative session. Director Faulds will present the survey and updates on other Bureau activities. The Division budgeted \$34,000 in the last biennium budget under an existing contract for services from the Bureau for curation of OGG materials and special reports. The Division has the reserves to pay in this fiscal year and recommends approval of the expenditure.
30 minutes

III. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Dissolved Mineral Resource bill update **FOR DISCUSSION ONLY**
Division staff drafted language for a bill to include the regulation of dissolved mineral resources in the geothermal resources chapter, NAC 534A. The BDR pre-filed as Assembly bill 52. The Division began meeting with stakeholders regarding their concerns and drafted a proposed amendment to the original bill.
Rich Perry 10 minutes

IV. STAFF REPORTS

- 1) Mining/Reclamation Bond Pool – Mike Visser
- 2) Update on Arden Mine AML Closure efforts - Garrett Wake
- 3) Update on proposed Mineral Withdrawals and Lands Bills – Mike Visser
- 4) Legislative bill tracking – Rich Perry

COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

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COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Determination of time and place of next CMR meeting

ADJOURNMENT

NOTICE TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Members of the public who are disabled and require special accommodations or assistance at the meeting are requested to notify the Division of Minerals, 400 W. King Street, suite 106, Carson City, NV 89701 or contact Valerie Kneefel at (775) 684-7043 or Email Vkneefel@minerals.nv.gov

The Commission will be attending a field trip on Friday March 3, 2017. The Commission will tour the Lhoist Apex Quarry and Plant from 9-11 AM. Those wishing to attend should leave Henderson at 8 AM and arrive at the site before 9 AM.

Members of the public may attend but must provide their own transportation and safety equipment. Advanced notification is required. Please call Valerie Kneefel at (775) 684-7043.

I. MINUTES



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COMMISSION ON MINERAL RESOURCES
DCNR/Division of Water Resources-Tahoe Hearing Room Suite 2002
901 S. Stewart Street Carson City, Nevada 89701-5250

Tuesday, November 1, 2016

1:00 P.M.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting started at 12:59

ROLL CALL

Commission in attendance:

Fred Gibson- **absent**
Dennis Bryan
Richard DeLong
Arthur Henderson- **absent**
John Mudge
David Parker
John Snow

Staff in attendance:

Rich Perry
Mike Visher
Rob Ghiglieri
Lowell Price
Garrett Wake
Lucia Patterson
Bryan Stockton
Valerie Kneefel

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

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No public comments

I. MINUTES

A. Approval of the August 25, 2016 meeting minutes

MOTION: Approval with no changes

BY: Dennis Bryan

SECONDED BY: John Snow

Unanimously approved.

II. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Presentation on Albemarle Corporation by Karen Narwold, Chief Administrative Officer of Albemarle. Albemarle owns and operates the Silver Peak lithium mine in Esmeralda County.

Karen Narwold- Executive, Vice President of Albemarle Corporation. Lithium Operations. Serves as the company's general counsel. It is the world's largest lithium producer and the owner of the only producing U.S. lithium mining operations- Silver Peak, NV. They are the leader in lithium extraction and derivatization technology.

Albemarle is a global specialty chemicals company with leading position in lithium, bromine, refining catalyst and applied surface treatments. Albemarle is the only producer of lithium in the U.S. The safest, most sustainable and environmentally protective technology for lithium extraction from brine remains solar evaporation. Use only Lime in the processing and mainly solar. The largest employer in Esmeralda County (80 employees and contractors). They own the water rights in the Clayton Valley Basin.

Do not support any changes to the rules/NRS that don't encourage protection of the water.

The proposed BDR conflicts with the Nevada Water Laws. It also will allow for contamination/pollution of the aquifers. This proposal will allow physical harm to aquifers. The brine lithium resource is fragile, unique, and requires a balanced approach to avoid resource destruction. Promotes unproven technology over existing, sustainable operation. It undermines current dual permitting that protects water (water right) and minerals (mining claim). BDR 258 will result in lithium resource depletion; similar to geothermal resource depletion. It will promote speculation (Wildcat speculation in Clayton Valley) and reduce investments. Minor clarifying changes to the current water laws would enhance lithium exploration. Such as; clarify what "temporary" use of water for "minerals exploration" means for waiver NRS 534.050(2)(b). Clarify what a "borehole: is and specify that if it exceeds a certain depth and drilling in sensitive aquifers then it needs more engineering and monitoring.

Dave Parker: you glossed over the fact there are 1872 mining laws and placer claims which has boundaries (27:00)

Karen Narwold: you need the mining claim as well as the water claim. You can't take just the placer claim without having a water claim.

Dave Parker: is Abemarle's position that you own all the minerals because you have the water rights in the Clayton Basin.

Karen Narwold: most of them, yes. Impossible to access the mineral without the water.

Dave Parker: do you think Nevada water law should regulate lithium production?

KarenNarwold: it already has for approximately 50 years.

Rich DeLong: BDR 258 will eliminate the need for water right to go into production?

Karen Narwold: the problem is that it encourages the exploration but not the development without the water rights. Water rights will be necessary.

Denis Bryan: explain any other company coming in how much water would they use outside of this re-injection. Couldn't they go out and buy that from a 3rd party?

Karen Narwold: They could buy water rights.

John Mudge: is your company exploring in Nevada outside of Clayton? (32:55)

Karen Narwold: no. Because of the regulatory uncertainties. We invest capital where there is greatest amount of return. We are continuously looking into other technologies.

John Snow: have you solved or have a position on non-patented claims and the byproducts of the extraction process that could be or are construed as leasable. (35:00)

Karen Narwold: we have spent quite a bit of time looking into how to extract from the salt piles. We have talked to BLM to have access to these salt piles. And then manufacture the pot ash. It's a win-win situation. It creates jobs and eliminates the salt pile waste.

Rich Perry: Comment: BDR 258 language that is not out yet, there is pre-language that was submitted by the Governor's office to LCB. The final language is not approved yet.

B. Oil, Gas and Geothermal databases

Demonstration - Lucia Patterson and Lowell Price

Lucia Patterson: (38:15) demonstrated the new database for oil, gas and geothermal. She showed the commission how the database works and how to quickly run a report. She also went through the Nevada Oil Patch report.

Lowell Price: we are currently incorporating older data that is only on hard copy. Our goal is to include cuttings information as well. If there are cuttings we haven't received, we can now go after them.

John Snow: good job Lucia. Will the production be available to the public online?

Lowell Price: eventually. I've been sending reports to anyone interested. What Lucia has done is a very thorough report of production. There is no confidentiality on production, so we could put them online.

John Mudge: can you make the database available to public?

Lucia Patterson: some is confidential.

Rich Perry: we don't have a searchable website for this capability for the database. We can put the reports or documents on the website.

C. Review of the 2016 Abandoned Mine Lands program

Rob Ghiglieri will outline the work performed and use of new MESA-2 field units. (52:12)

Rob Ghiglieri: Showed the commission the new MESA-2 tablets. He had 3 units to pass out to show. In the past we have had paper maps and pencils. These have now moved us forward. These tablets have all the current photos and hazards already in them. So, when we go in the field we have all the information including pictures of the site. This makes visits, new and revisits much more efficient and accurate. Rob went through the screens of the new MESA. It has a really long battery life as well.

Dennis Bryan: are there photos that auto populate on these devices?

Rob Ghiglieri: you can bring them up on the MESA, yes.

John Mudge: How much are they? (1:05:21)

Rob Ghiglieri: \$1,500 upgraded to \$2,200 each.

Dave Parker: what happens if one gets left in the field?

Rob Ghiglieri: that would be very unfortunate. There is no tracking device on it.

D. 2015 Major Mines of Nevada Publication

This annual publication was recently completed and printed. Mike Visher will explain the process of how production data is collected, compiled and reviewed for this annual publication and how it meets the requirements of the statutes. (1:08:25)

Mike Visher: went through why we do this publication. Read through the NRS 513 regulations, this indicates the reason for the publication. The final version of this publication is at the printers but, he did provide a final draft print out to the commission. The NRS has not been revised since 1988. He also went through the forms that the operators need to fill out. There is no dedicated fee to submit the information. Metallic is not usually a problem to get the operators to fill out the forms. However, the non-metallic companies are not consistent in sending them in. He showed the commission Colorado's major mine publication. Colorado was unable to put this publication out every year but, it is more information than what we provide. Asked the commission for feedback on whether our publication should be in color? Or larger in size? NDOM pays for the printing of approximately 1,500 booklets and consistently run out. The Bureau takes 50 to 100 to sell. It's the go to book for all the contractors in the state.

Dennis Bryan: what is the definition of a major mine? (1:19:28)

Mike Visher: Mines that have proceeds (reported to Taxation) over 100 to 200 thousand dollars. Most operators want to communicate with as few agencies as possible.

Dave Parker: the forms, are they on our website? Would you like us to put some teeth into this?

Mike Visher: Yes the forms are on our website. These have been in place since 1988. We don't want to change the NRS but, would like to get some feedback on the publication itself. If there are terms that need clarifying then we would need to clean up the NRS. We do get questions on percentage of underground mining vs open pit mining for gold. It's not information that we actually collect. However, we do collect information of public land (Federal) vs private land.

E. Presentation on Earth Science Teacher's Workshop
and request for financial support for FY 2018-19.

The Commission has provided \$15,000 per year from claim fee revenues to support of the annual teacher workshops, which are organized by the Nevada Mining Association Education Committee. The support is used for purchases of texts, hand lenses, mineral kits and bus transportation, which the Division orders and receives. The expenditure is included in the FY 2018-19 budget, which begins July 1, 2017. A letter from the Chairperson of the Education Committee is included.

Garrett Wake will do a presentation on the last two workshops and what is planned for 2017.

Garrett Wake: presented a power point to the commission. (1:25:06)

Why workshops are important:

- Promotes positive impacts of the mining industry
- Most people don't make the obvious connection between the things they use and own, and the raw materials used to create them. Minerals are used to make, or are contained in virtually everything we own.
- Reiterating and reinforcing this connection leads to the realization that mining is not only important, it is essential.
- Mining companies abide by strict regulations and most do an excellent job of remediation/reclamation, not to mention provide thousands of well-paying jobs, provide significant income to the State and provide us with the essential minerals we need.
- Shows the industry cares about the local communities
- Teaching educators about the importance of earth science, minerals education and mining allows the "trickle-down" of information to their students – effectively reaching a much broader audience.
- The amount of money needed to fund these workshops compared to the quality and quantity of information passed on to these teachers, and then on to countless students over several years is money well invested and will pay dividends.
- Spurs interest in careers in mining and related industries
- Earth science, and minerals education especially aren't focused on in most curriculums. These workshops are one of few places educators can learn ways to bridge and incorporate minerals and mining studies into the classroom.

What educators take away:

- A general understanding of topics, including:
- Rocks and minerals education: what we use certain rocks and minerals for, how they're identified, where and how they form, are found and mined;
- The life cycle of a mine, from startup through reclamation;
- Nevada's natural resources: an overview;
- How minerals are extracted from ore; and many more topics!
- A mineral kit and a rock kit, along with tools needed for identification
- Teaching educators about how to identify rocks and minerals is great, but allowing them to take kits back to the classroom and allow students to apply theory with hands-on application is priceless.
- All rocks and minerals acquired here in Nevada, and are either donated by active mines, or are collected from known locations across the state. There's no better way to teach about Nevada's vast mineral wealth than to show it!
- Hands-on projects and activity guides
- We not only teach educators how to convey this information, but provide them with step-by-step instructions on how to conduct these activities in the classroom.
- Some student favorites include: birdseed mining, cupcake core drilling and "paste with a taste". All of these activities are great tools for educators to use showing students the importance of mining and minerals, while creating a fun and memorable experience.

Garrett showed a video of some interviews that he did at the workshop.

John Mudge: I love the fact that you are so passionate about it. (1:43:08)

Garrett Wake: all the volunteers are passionate about it. It's a great workshop. The amount of money is relatively small compared to what we give to the community.

John Mudge: we should do this.

Rich Perry: The request for funding are for certain things through the education committee for the Division of Minerals.

Rich DeLong: the request looks like it's for 3 years.

Rich Perry: the intent is for 2 years. This needs to coincide with the current fiscal budget years.

Dave Parker: the amount is for \$30,000?

Rich Perry: yes.

MOTION: Approved

BY: Dennis Bryan motion to approve for 2 years for the \$30,000.

SECONDED BY: Dave Parker seconded.

Unanimously approved.

Bryan Stockton: the agenda is for FY 18-19. The Mining Associations letter has the wrong dates.

Break (1:47:09) to (1:48:47)

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Dissolved Mineral Resource bill

Division staff drafted language for a bill to include the regulation of dissolved mineral resources in the geothermal resources chapter, NAC 534A. This is an agency bill through the Governor's office, assigned as BDR 258 for the 2017 legislative session. Administrator Perry will provide a presentation and update on activity and answer questions.

Rich Perry: Gave a power point presentation. (1:48:50)

Nevada has the only operating lithium mine in the U.S. – located in Clayton Valley, Esmeralda County

–Operated since 1967, employs 85 people

–Produces lithium carbonate

–Uses surface evaporation ponds to concentrate lithium after treating brines pumped from 4 aquifers

Geologic Model for a lithium brine deposit:

–Salar deposits – a salt flat that may represent the basin of a salt lake

–Accumulations of saline groundwater that are enriched in dissolved lithium.

–All producing lithium brine deposits share a number of first-order characteristics: USGS Open-File report 2013-1006

>10,000 placer claims staked since 1/1/15 in playas, presumably for lithium brine

- 15 different hydrographic basins in Nevada

- 25 different exploration entities, mainly "Juniors"

- Typical initial exploration is drilling of boreholes, sampling both sediment and brines, using a method called "dual wall reverse rotary".

- Issues: Open boreholes in unconsolidated playa sediments are unstable, unable to sample multiple aquifers without casing holes and doing packer tests. Boreholes penetrating artesian aquifers connecting brine and fresh water aquifers.

9 exploration companies have contacted NDOM in the past year, some with question about "how do we drill a well to sample aquifers?"

–Unless a lithium claim holder has a geothermal lease and can apply for a geothermal temperature-gradient or observation well, NDOM can only refer them to the water well drilling regulations in NAC 534.010 to 534.450 (NDWR).

Lithium brines are a locatable mineral using a placer claim on Federal lands

- NOI's or POO's administered by BLM, BMRR also for reclamation if a POO

- Drilling of unlined boreholes, same as any mineral exploration, under NAC 534.4369 (NDWR regulations).

Cannot divert water and groundwater cannot be contaminated. Must be plugged within 60 days of drilling.

- A borehole that is completed with casing becomes a well (NAC 534.220) and must be completed according to

NAC 534.360

- A well must have a water right before being drilled – NRS 534.050

Dissolved or entrained minerals can be recovered in the process of removing geothermal energy – NRS 534A.010 (NDOM statute)

- A claimant cannot drill a geothermal well to remove energy or dissolved minerals unless they have a geothermal lease on Federal land

- In summary, one cannot legally drill a well to sample for dissolved mineral brines without a water right or a geothermal lease.

Proposed remedy: Add Dissolved Mineral Resource to Geothermal Statutes in NRS 534

- Proposed a definition of dissolve mineral resource to NRS 534A

- In geothermal statutes, this would allow for drilling a cased well and reasonable use of water to sample without a water right

- Would require a water right for permanent consumptive use. i.e.: if a process was built

- Would allow for reinjection of brine without a water right, same as geothermal, but would require a UIC permit

Proposed remedy: Add Dissolved Mineral Resource to Geothermal Statutes in NRS 534

BDR 258 is an agency policy bill through the Governor's office

State Engineer (NDWR) is supportive, this would resolve an issue that is consuming time with applications and protests for water rights that are only being used to sample brine aquifers for lithium

NDEP is supportive, wants to ensure groundwater in basins is not contaminated by requiring casing and cement seals to ensure no contamination between fresh and brine aquifers

Industry: NVMA, mineral attorneys and those who contacted NDOM were contacted for comments

Proposed language:

NRS 534A.010 "Geothermal resource" defined.

NRS 534.XXX "Dissolved mineral resource" defined.

NRS 534A.031 Exploration and subsurface information: Filing with Division of Minerals of Commission on Mineral Resources; confidentiality; release to State Engineer or other agency.

NRS 534A.040 Applicability of procedures for appropriation.

NRS 534A.050 Ownership of geothermal resources.

NRS 534A.060 Permit required to drill or operate geothermal *or dissolved mineral* well or drill exploratory well; application.

NRS 534A.070 Approval or rejection of application for permit to drill exploratory well; review of application for permit to drill or operate geothermal *or dissolved mineral* well; hearing; conditions.

NRS 534A.080 Fees; use of money.

NRS 534A.090 Regulations of Commission on Mineral Resources.

Proposed remedy: Add Dissolved Mineral Resource to Geothermal Statutes in NRS 534 (cont)

If bill is passed, rule-making in NAC 534A.170-690 would be required to address: Applications, design of well Casing and cement seals

Abandonment and plugging

Soonest this could happen is Q3 2017, public hearings required, and final regulations would have to be approved by the Commission on Mineral Resources, with final adoption by the interim Legislative Committee Arguments in favor of this bill:

Exploration for a locatable mineral under the mining law of 1872 should not be regulated by Nevada water law or geothermal leases.

- Allows exploration entities the ability to discover a deposit using cased wells, then if water is needed to process, acquire consumptive water rights (similar to geothermal). Developing Li-extraction technology does not utilize evaporation, but rather SX-EW and ion-specific exchange and re-injection of brines.

- NDOM is best suited to regulate dissolved mineral brine wells, as the regulator of geothermal, oil, gas wells in Nevada. Would ensure fresh water is protected and obsolete wells are plugged and abandoned properly.

- BLM would rely on NDOM for permitting of dissolved mineral brine wells on federal lands as condition of NOI's or PoO's.

Had an updated map on display for Lithium exploration in Nevada.

Dave Parker: Has a question for Bryan Stockton regarding the ownership issues. The ownership of Geothermal and dissolved brines. (2:12:58)

Bryan Stockton: I looked into this. There is no Nevada law that is directly on point. In California this has been litigated a lot but not specifically with Lithium. What the courts held generally was that the owner of the mineral rights owns the Lithium in the brine. They looked at the nature of the grant and specifically the wording.

Dave Parker: would it clarify everything if we just added “dissolved minerals” to the ownership.

Bryan Stockton: I wonder about that because the nature of the grant. The statute can make a presumption that whoever owns the mineral estate would own the lithium but not if the mineral rights are leased. The courts are really going to have to answer that question.

John Snow: patented and private lands. That the surface owner owns the mineral rights and are not subject to the federal government mining law or the 3809 regulations.

Bryan Stockton: there is no definitive law in place, so I can't say it's not clear. All locatable minerals are going to go with the mineral estate.

John Snow: Have you done any more research on the Correlative rights and how that would apply? (2:17:32)

Bryan Stockton: because it's a locatable mineral so it wouldn't apply.

John Snow: its only locatable if it Federal.

Bryan Stockton: I'm not clear. Can you email me the question?

Dennis Bryan: A huge issue here is if you have 2 separate claimants on a playa out there with lithium beneath both and it's a locatable mineral. Is there any case out there if they both start pumping, and they have the water rights? Is it a case of he who pumps the fastest gets the lithium?

Bryan Stockton: the only case law that comes close is Calif. Courts clearly state that the mineral goes to the owner of the mineral estate.

Rich DeLong: I would think that there would be case law prior to 1920 in the oil and gas. Prior to 1920 it was locatable. So the case law would be trying to adjudicate the mining claims for the pumping of the oil well fields.

Bryan Stockton: I didn't realize oil and gas was locatable prior to 1920.

John Snow: Oil and gas is very structured when it comes to mineral rights. Geothermal is not in Nevada.

John Mudge: trying to understand the market, 10,000 claims? Why are they out staking claims before we pass any rules? (2:21:55)

Rich Perry: Most claimants don't even know that there are rules not established as of yet. I think it's one of those exploration booms. It's the Tesla plant and 85% of the land is Federal, etc. If they have to go and apply for a water right and they get protested, then they will more than likely pull their claims and go elsewhere. We need to separate water law and mineral law. Next step, LCB comes back with language and the governor's office will see if it goes to Legislature for further adoption process.

B. Update on proposed Mineral Withdrawals and Land Bills

NDOM has prepared maps for use by industry and the public of the proposed withdrawals of federal lands that are currently being proposed or evaluated. Rich Perry and Mike Visser will explain the type of withdrawal proposed, active claims and leasable minerals that could be impacted, and where each proposed withdrawal is in the decision process.

- BLM Sagebrush Focal Area
- Navy Fallon Range Training Complex (FRTC) Expansion
- Air Force Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR) Expansion
- Washoe County Lands Bill
- Pershing County Lands Bill

Rich Perry: Gave a power point presentation consisting of several maps. (2:28:55)

After the power point he went through the maps that were included in the packets to the commission.

John Snow: made a comment regarding the Navy in Calif. has Geothermal worldwide.

Rich DeLong: It looks like the area north of hiway 50 may include a gold deposit. (2:51:03)

Dennis Bryan: due date for comments?

Rich Perry: November 25th.

Mike Visser: the map I handed out is the 2017 update to replace the one in your packet. All maps are on our

website.

John Mudge: is it possible to be a cooperating agency when they are starting at such an extreme?

Rich Perry: yes. It's not the first time it's been proposed.

John Mudge: it would better to at least have a seat at the table.

Garrett Wake: went through the Nellis expansion/training range map for land withdrawal.

Rich Perry: would like an explanation as to why they needed more land.

Dave Parker: Nellis is expanding for the same reason in the north area? For flying?

Garrett Wake: It has to do with the path of aircraft travel routes.

Mike Visser: went through the Washoe County Wilderness Proposal and the Washoe County Land Transfer.

Mike Visser: also explained the Pershing County lands bill proposed wilderness areas (western map) and the Pershing County lands bill proposed wilderness area (eastern map). Mike handed out an updated map of Pershing County Public lands proposal. Because this map has Harry Reid and Dean Heller backing it, it is already moving forward. The information is on our website along with any meetings.

Dennis Bryan: conflict on the maps.

Mike Visser: Pershing County does not have a GIS department. The most recent land proposal is from January and says draft. We don't have a new map with everything on it. The bill actually does not have a map attached to it. If you want the shape files, it will cost you \$300 out of Chicago.

C. Oil, Gas and Geothermal drilling and production activity

OGG Program Manager Lowell Price will present the YTD drilling and production activities in Nevada. (3:13:30)

Lowell Price: Gave a power point presentation on updating the permit and drilling activity for Geothermal, Gas and Oil. The permitting is down from previous years but the drilling/activity is approximately the same as last year.

IV. STAFF REPORTS

1) Mining/Reclamation Bond Pool – Mike Visser

Mike Visser- Terminated one participant from the bond pool for non-payment.

Lucia Patterson- (3:28:40) did a Nevada Claims update, which are up 4.7% from last year 2016.

2) Correspondence

COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

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Karen Narwold: concern coupling the mineral and water laws. Encourage that language be developed before the Bill comes out from LCB. Is disappointed that Albemarle wasn't contacted before for guidance and understanding on the process and exploration on Lithium.

Leo Drozdoff: BDR is with LCB and LCB tries not to change the intent of the Bill. We would like the opportunity to work with NDOM to try and change the Bill.

George Theil: waivers under NAC 534.4371 You can have a casing in a borehole without a waiver. It's allowed within the NAC. It's under the borehole regulation section 6.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Determination of time and place of next CMR meeting

March 2 and 3, 2017 in Las Vegas.

ADJOURNMENT

4:58 pm.

II. NEW BUSINESS

II. A. Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC)

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HAND OUTS AND PRESENTATION WILL BE GIVEN AT THE
MEETING.

II. B UNR-MSM annual \$2 claim fee **approval consideration**

Fiscal 2016 Mining Claim Filing Fees (3718 - \$6.00) & Dangerous Mine Fees (3727 - \$2.50)						
			Claim Filings		Claim Filings	Claim Filings
FY 16			FY 2016		CY 2015	CY 2016
COUNTY		TOTAL	Jul to Jun		Jul to Dec	Jan to Jun
Carson	Carson	\$178.50	21		19	2
Churchill	Churchill	\$31,637.00	3,722		2,677	1,045
Clark	Clark	\$19,142.00	2,252		1,751	501
Douglas	Douglas	\$6,400.50	753		723	30
Elko	Elko	\$291,048.50	34,241		26,842	7,399
Esmeralda	Esmeralda	\$128,239.50	15,087		9,608	5,479
Eureka	Eureka	\$217,370.50	25,573		21,805	3,768
Humboldt	Humboldt	\$198,636.50	23,369		19,381	3,988
Lander	Lander	\$194,148.50	22,841		19,327	3,514
Lincoln	Lincoln	\$26,035.50	3,063		2,753	310
Lyon	Lyon	\$42,747.00	5,029		4,955	74
Mineral	Mineral	\$64,243.00	7,558		7,126	432
Nye	Nye	\$169,124.50	19,897		16,828	3,069
Pershing	Pershing	\$119,782.00	14,092		13,616	476
Storey	Storey	\$3,468.00	408		407	1
Washoe	Washoe	\$13,617.00	1,602		1,307	295
White Pine	White Pine	\$149,047.50	17,535		17,436	99

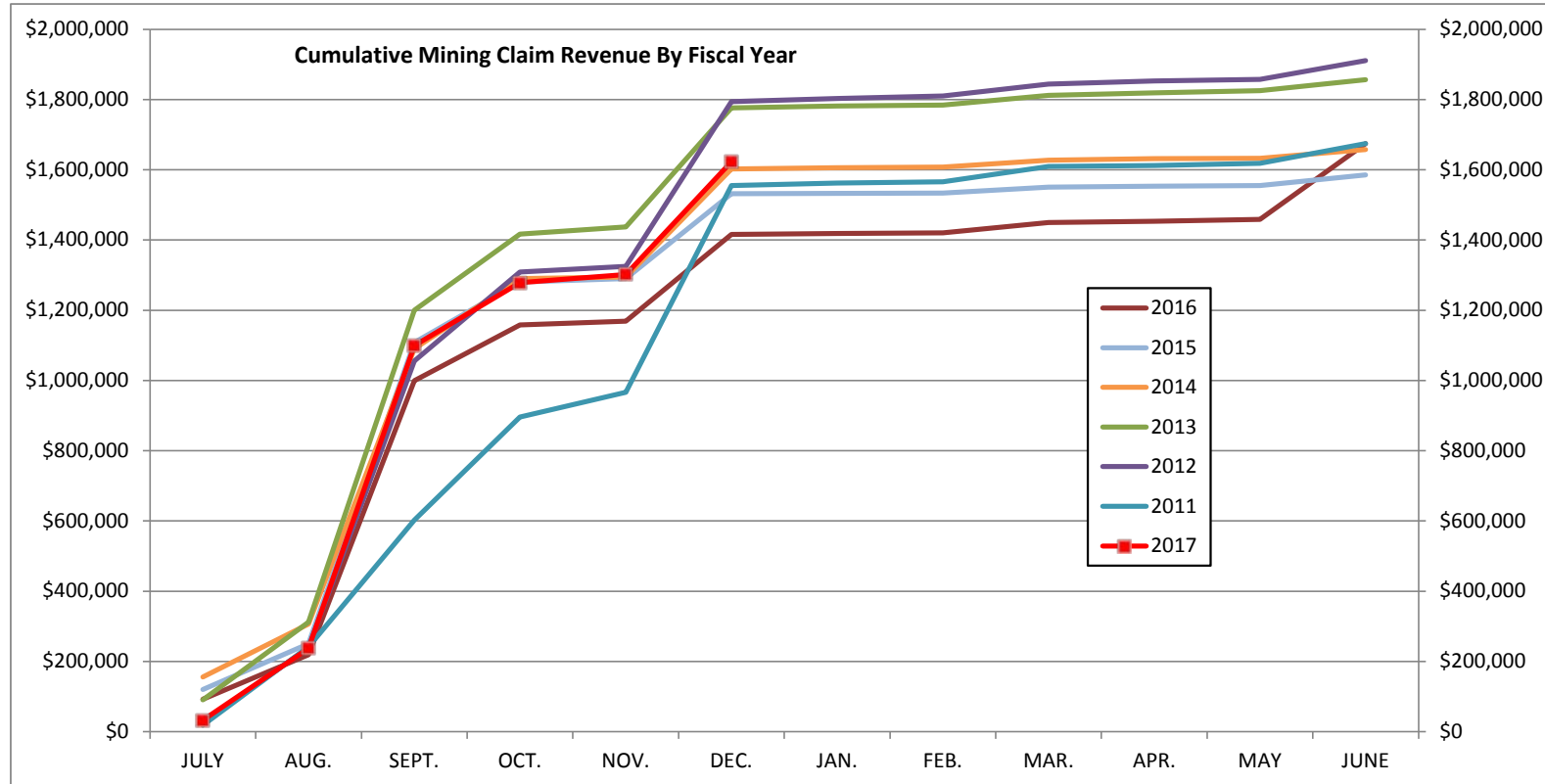
Total		\$1,674,866.00				
Cumulative Total Claim Filings			197,043		166,561	30,482
			\$394,086	\$2/claim filing (Mackay)		

Fiscal Year Cumulative Mining Claim Revenue By Month

Fiscal Year	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	YOY	Total Claims
2017	\$32,650	\$236,939	\$1,099,584	\$1,278,775	\$1,301,335	\$1,622,635								
2016	\$92,072	\$219,020	\$999,082	\$1,158,219	\$1,168,827	\$1,415,769	\$1,418,574	\$1,420,520	\$1,450,134	\$1,453,118	\$1,458,388	\$1,674,866	5.6%	197,043
2015	\$120,352	\$250,079	\$1,108,417	\$1,280,687	\$1,290,241	\$1,531,683	\$1,532,431	\$1,533,349	\$1,550,247	\$1,553,571	\$1,555,211	\$1,585,539	-4.4%	186,534
2014	\$155,703	\$306,646	\$1,090,754	\$1,290,496	\$1,294,661	\$1,602,233	\$1,606,177	\$1,607,656	\$1,627,283	\$1,631,235	\$1,632,417	\$1,657,789	-10.7%	195,034
2013	\$90,253	\$311,806	\$1,199,622	\$1,417,171	\$1,437,104	\$1,775,803	\$1,781,575	\$1,783,870	\$1,812,217	\$1,818,745	\$1,825,571	\$1,856,460	-2.8%	218,407
2012	\$26,248	\$239,904	\$1,055,539	\$1,309,017	\$1,324,445	\$1,793,687	\$1,802,901	\$1,810,432	\$1,843,795	\$1,852,541	\$1,857,012	\$1,910,562	14.1%	224,772
2011	\$18,504	\$241,374	\$602,803	\$895,475	\$966,603	\$1,554,871	\$1,562,053	\$1,565,649	\$1,609,424	\$1,612,118	\$1,618,145	\$1,674,304	3.8%	196,977
2010	\$34,315	\$252,520	\$866,626	\$1,120,355	\$1,151,704	\$1,527,997	\$1,532,639	\$1,537,911	\$1,566,170	\$1,569,088	\$1,574,207	\$1,613,142		189,781

12 Counties pay quarterly: CC, CH, DO, ES, HU, LA, LI, LY, NY, PE, ST and WP

FY17 data as of 2/13/2017



ANALYSIS OF EARLY MINING CLAIM FILINGS IN ADVANCE OF JULY 1, 2016 FEE INCREASE									
COUNTY	Q4 FY11	Q4 FY12	Q4 FY13	Q4 FY14	Q4 FY15	Q4 FY16	% FY16 change over FY11-15 avg.	Change in # of FY16 claims over FY11-15 avg.	Variance Value
Carson	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$34.00	\$8.50	25.0%	0	\$1.70
Churchill	\$1,674.50	\$1,819.00	\$127.50	\$374.00	\$2,524.50	\$8,780.50	573.4%	880	\$7,476.60
Clark	\$3,978.00	\$2,320.50	\$1,300.50	\$960.50	\$1,479.00	\$1,776.50	-11.5%	(27)	-\$231.20
Douglas	\$93.50	\$408.00	\$0.00	\$340.00	\$229.50	\$93.50	-56.3%	(14)	-\$120.70
Elko	\$4,785.50	\$17,085.00	\$17,229.50	\$3,051.50	\$9,095.00	\$61,064.00	495.8%	5,978	\$50,814.70
Esmeralda	\$9,180.00	\$5,244.50	\$4,318.00	\$4,309.50	\$3,510.50	\$32,988.50	521.0%	3,256	\$27,676.00
Eureka	\$4,777.00	\$3,901.50	\$5,287.00	\$1,360.00	\$1,649.00	\$30,583.00	800.9%	3,199	\$27,188.10
Humboldt	\$3,969.50	\$8,075.00	\$1,742.50	\$2,669.00	\$1,581.00	\$33,260.50	822.0%	3,489	\$29,653.10
Lander	\$1,555.50	\$1,870.00	\$1,096.50	\$4,029.00	\$4,522.00	\$24,922.00	853.2%	2,624	\$22,307.40
Lincoln	\$3,247.00	\$654.50	\$1,003.00	\$170.00	\$2,252.50	\$2,057.00	40.4%	70	\$591.60
Lyon	\$1,011.50	\$731.00	\$578.00	\$399.50	\$382.50	\$502.00	-19.1%	(14)	-\$118.50
Mineral	\$4,760.00	\$3,179.00	\$578.00	\$1,198.50	\$1,853.00	\$1,572.50	-32.0%	(87)	-\$741.20
Nye	\$18,190.00	\$8,296.00	\$4,513.50	\$4,845.00	\$1,980.50	\$21,037.50	178.1%	1,585	\$13,472.50
Pershing	\$5,831.00	\$11,645.00	\$833.00	\$5,049.00	\$3,068.50	\$3,085.50	-41.6%	(259)	-\$2,199.80
Storey	\$68.00	\$340.00	\$204.00	\$0.00	\$51.00	\$8.50	-93.6%	(15)	-\$124.10
Washoe	\$289.00	\$59.50	\$289.00	\$977.50	\$59.50	\$2,507.50	648.7%	256	\$2,172.60
White Pine	\$1,470.50	\$1,139.00	\$1,360.00	\$773.50	\$765.00	\$484.50	-56.0%	(73)	-\$617.10
Totals	\$64,880.50	\$66,767.50	\$40,460.00	\$30,506.50	\$35,037.00	\$224,732.00	273.4%	20,847	\$177,201.70

Fiscal 2017 Mining Claim Filing Fees		
(as of 2/16/2017)		
Total Claim Filings	County	Total Revenue
31	Carson	\$310.00
3,218	Churchill	\$32,180.00
2,004	Clark	\$20,051.50
750	Douglas	\$7,500.00
20,977	Elko	\$209,770.00
16,194	Esmeralda	\$163,891.50
19,020	Eureka	\$188,010.00
16,313	Humboldt	\$163,130.00
18,565	Lander	\$185,650.00
2,678	Lincoln	\$26,780.00
4,919	Lyon	\$49,190.00
8,118	Mineral	\$81,180.00
17,979	Nye	\$179,746.50
12,726	Pershing	\$127,257.00
408	Storey	\$4,080.00
1,687	Washoe	\$16,870.00
17,047	White Pine	\$170,458.00
162,634	Totals	\$1,626,054.50

II. C NBMG annual scope of work and funding

Hi Rich-

Our proposed budget for FY18 for specific projects and deliverables is described below.

1. Updated Mineral Exploration Report and Major Mines Map to be completed by November 15, 2017 (salary and fringe for David Davis and Jack Hursh) \$39,760
2. Updated Annual Mineral Survey to be completed by November 15, 2017 (salary and fringe for David Davis and Jack Hursh) \$34,080
3. Scanning of maps, reports, and well logs : (undergraduate research technician-salary and fringe) \$8,160
4. Curation of cuttings and core (undergraduate research technician-salary and fringe) \$7,650
5. Printing of maps and Publications \$5,350

Total=\$95,000

The attached spreadsheet provides some additional details. We very much appreciate your consideration of this request and continued support.

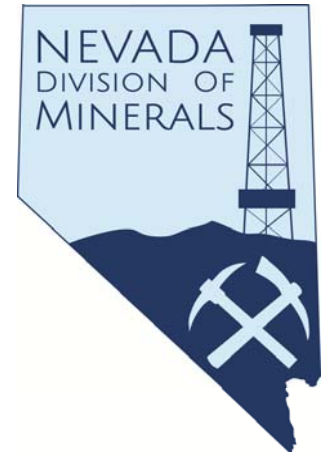
Let me know if you need any additional information or have any questions.

Thanks,

Jim

James E. Faulds, Ph.D.
Director/State Geologist/Professor
Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology
University of Nevada, Reno, MS 178
Reno, NV 89557
(775)-682-8751

II. D Presentation of Intern Video and 2016 program review



2016 NDOM AML Review

March 2nd, 2017

Las Vegas NV

CMR Quarterly Meeting

2016 AML SUMMER INTERNS

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO KAMERON DEVINE, TREY MCGOWAN, CONOR OSTLING, WILL TAYLOR, DAN WHITELEY AND NICK WINTER.
TRULY AN AMAZING GROUP OF WORKERS!

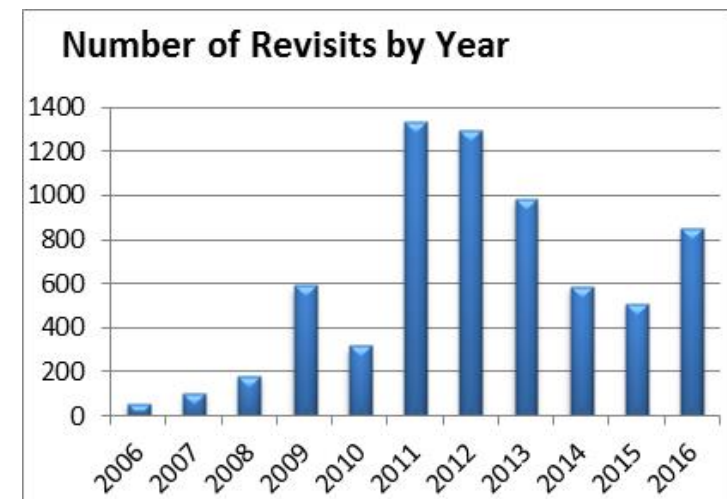
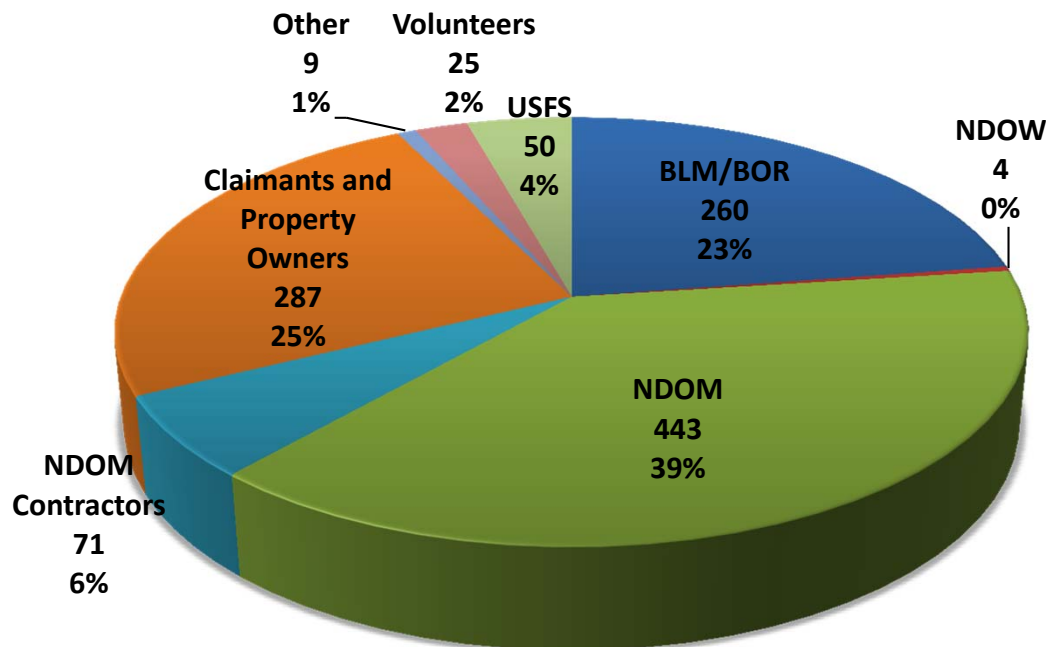
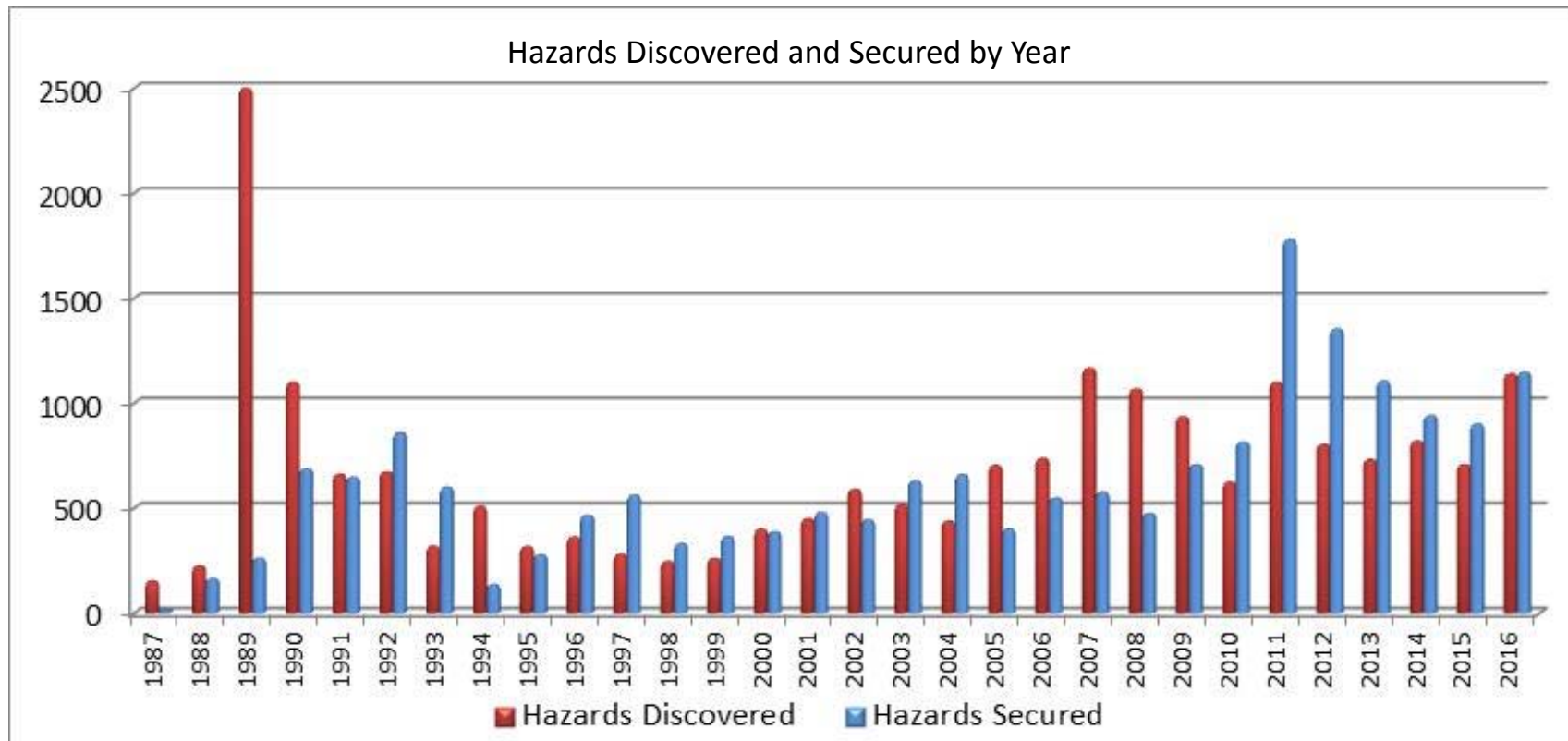


2016 AML SUMMER INTERN STATISTICS:

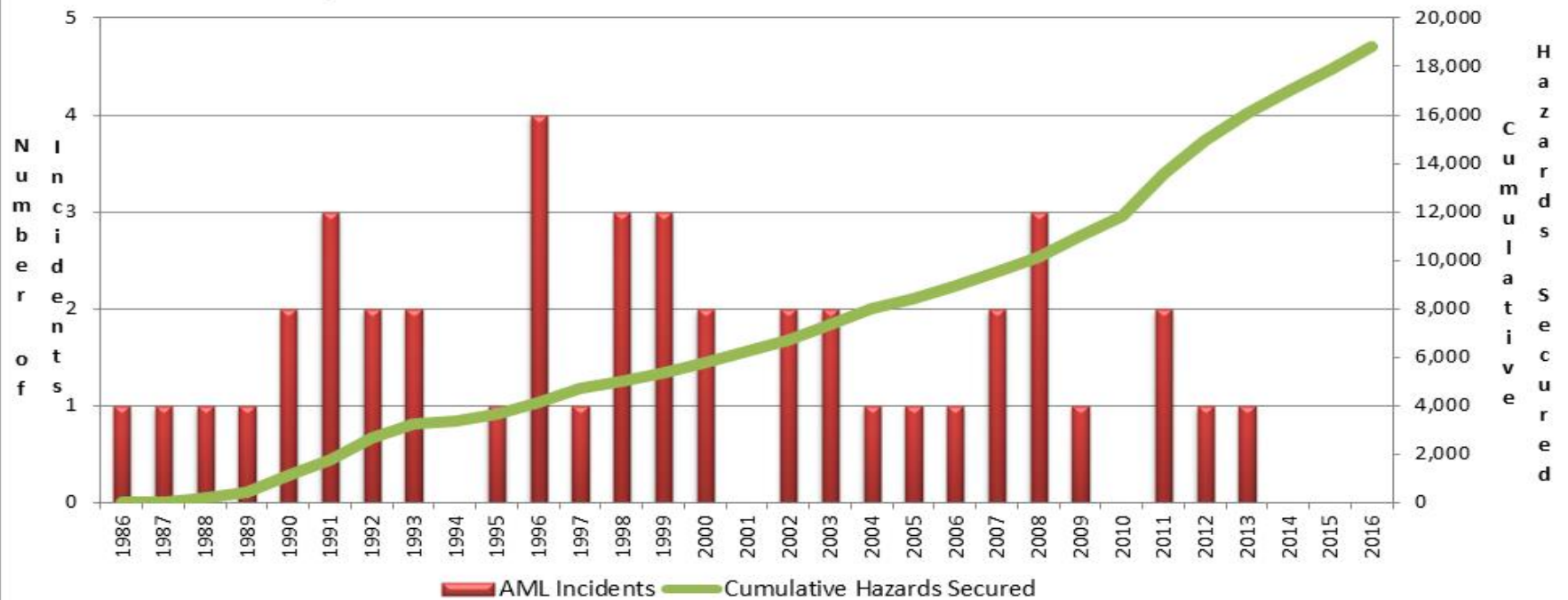
- 308 Securings
- 763 New Hazard Loggings
- 166 Re-Visits
- 9,162 Non-Hazards
- 4,214 Man-Hours
- 19,756 Miles Traveled
- 61 Days in the Field
- 0 Safety/Vehicle Incidents



2016 NDOM AML Statistics



Reported AML Incidents vs. Cumulative Hazards Secured



COUNTY	SITES DISCOVERED	SITES SECURED	% SECURED
Carson	76	76	100.0%
Churchill	821	648	78.9%
Clark	2,220	1,872	84.3%
Douglas	206	200	97.1%
Elko	859	717	83.5%
Esmeralda	3,080	2,547	82.7%
Eureka	850	739	86.9%
Humboldt	942	763	81.0%
Lander	634	540	85.2%
Lincoln	963	807	83.8%
Lyon	1,111	1,017	91.5%
Mineral	1,731	1,488	86.0%
Nye	2,858	2,214	77.5%
Pershing	1,773	1,445	81.5%
Storey	197	191	97.0%
Washoe	454	406	89.4%
White Pine	1,901	1,105	58.1%
TOTAL (Since 1987)	20,676	16,775	81.1%

II. E NBMG Exploration Survey and update and approval of payment



**Nevada Bureau of
Mines and Geology**

Special Publication MI-2015

The Nevada Mineral Industry 2015

Metals

**Industrial
Minerals**

Oil and Gas

Geothermal

*Exploration
Development
Mining
Processing*



University of Nevada, Reno

This report describes mineral, oil and gas, and geothermal activities and accomplishments in Nevada in 2015: production statistics, exploration and development—including drilling for petroleum and geothermal resources, discoveries of orebodies, new mines opened, and expansion and other activities of existing mines. Statistics of known gold and silver deposits, and directories of mines and mills are included.

III. OLD BUSINESS

III. A. Dissolved Mineral Resource bill update

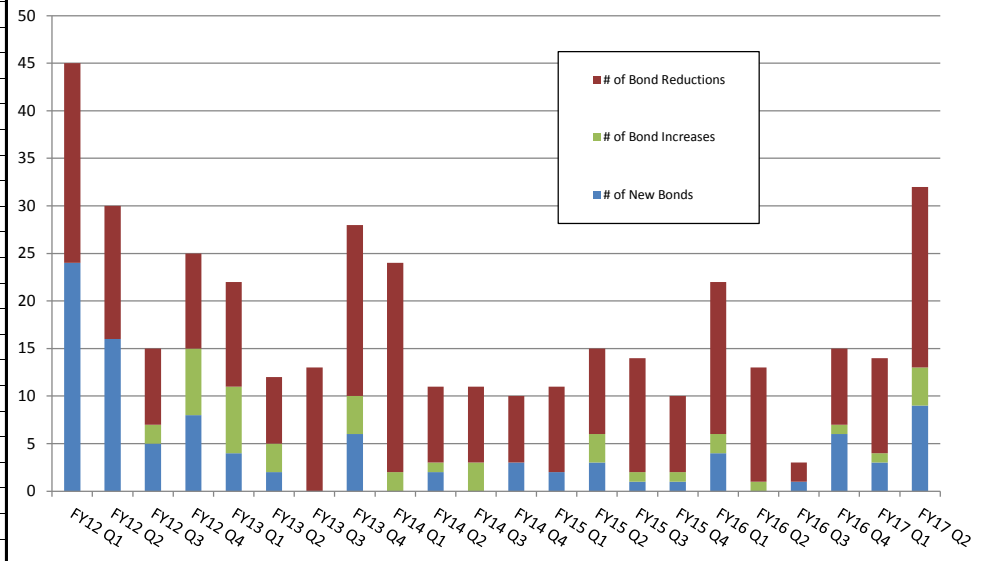
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HAND OUTS AND PRESENTATION WILL BE GIVEN AT THE
MEETING.

IV. STAFF REPORTS

Reclamation Bond Pool Status Report			Current to:	1/31/2017							
Plan-level Bonds -Company		Project	Entry Date	Bond Amount	% of Pool	Comments	Deposit	Premiums Paid	% Bond Whole	Premium Schedule	Current thru
Custom Details		Bovie-Lew	11/17/2006	\$24,364.00	0.77%		\$ 12,217.11	\$19,522.40	130.3%	\$182.73 quarterly	3/31/2017
New Gold Nevada (formerly NV Rae)		Black Rock Canyon	4/15/2005	\$709,941.00	22.38%		\$ 404,828.37	\$283,815.78	97.0%	\$15,671.11 quarterly	3/31/2017
So. NV Liteweight		Money Pit	5/21/2004	\$395,514.00	12.47%		\$ 213,055.61	\$240,418.18	114.7%	\$2,966.36 quarterly	3/31/2017
Western Pacific Clay		Fallon Bentonite	12/11/1997	\$209,900.00	6.62%	terminated	\$ 31,485.00	\$185,648.94	103.4%		
Western Mine Dev.		Victorine Mine	5/24/2000	\$45,875.39	1.45%	terminated	\$ -				
Western Mine Dev.		Kingston Mill	5/24/2000	\$100,450.00	3.17%	terminated	\$ -				
Western Mine Dev.		Manhattan Mill	5/24/2000	\$114,288.77	3.60%	terminated	\$ -				
TNT Venture		Big Canyon	1/27/2010	\$78,161.00	2.46%		\$ 39,615.03	\$40,944.54	103.1%	\$586.21 quarterly	3/31/2017
Dun Glen Mining		Dun Glen	8/11/2014	\$373,981.00	11.79%		\$ 200,648.22	\$82,337.49	75.7%	\$8,780.45 quarterly	12/31/2016
Statewide Notice-Level		Various	various	\$1,119,774.00	35.30%	86 Notice-level bonds					
										Premiums due	
Total Bonded Amount				\$3,172,249.16	100.00						
Cash in Pool's Account				\$4,018,407.19							
Unfunded Amount				-\$846,158.03							
Percent funded				126.7%							

Date	# of New Bonds	# of Bond Increases	# of Bond Reductions
FY12 Q1	24	0	21
FY12 Q2	16	0	14
FY12 Q3	5	2	8
FY12 Q4	8	7	10
FY13 Q1	4	7	11
FY13 Q2	2	3	7
FY13 Q3	0	0	13
FY13 Q4	6	4	18
FY14 Q1	0	2	22
FY14 Q2	2	1	8
FY14 Q3	0	3	8
FY14 Q4	3	0	7
FY15 Q1	2	0	9
FY15 Q2	3	3	9
FY15 Q3	1	1	12
FY15 Q4	1	1	8
FY16 Q1	4	2	16
FY16 Q2	0	1	12
FY16 Q3	1	0	2
FY16 Q4	6	1	8
FY17 Q1	3	1	10
FY17 Q2	9	4	19

Notice-Level Bond Actions Executed With NDOM





STATE OF NEVADA
COMMISSION ON MINERAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF MINERALS
400 W. King Street, Suite 106
Carson City, Nevada 89703
(775) 684-7040 • Fax (775) 684-7052
<http://minerals.nv.gov/>



BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor

Las Vegas Office: 2030 E. Flamingo Rd. #220, Las Vegas, NV 89119
Phone: (702) 486-4343; Fax: (702) 486-4345

RICHARD PERRY
Administrator

December 22, 2016

Commissioner Marilyn Kirkpatrick
Clark County Commission
500 S. Grand Central Pkwy., 6th floor
Las Vegas, NV 89155

SUBJECT: NEVADA ABANDONED MINE LANDS (AML) PROGRAM

Dear Commissioner Kirkpatrick,

My name is Garrett Wake, and I work for the Nevada Division of Minerals here in Las Vegas. I am writing to you today in response to a conversation you had with my Division Administrator, Mr. Richard Perry, last Friday, December 16 during the NACO meeting. Mr. Perry informed me of your interest in the State's Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) program activities in Clark County.

The data in table one below shows that we currently have 2,194 logged hazards in Clark County, of which 405 hazards have yet to be secured. Many of these yet-to-be-secured sites are far and away from densely populated areas, though they are all in places that receive visitation from time to time.

Land Status	Permanent	Temporary	Unsecured	Total
County	6	25	16	47
BLM/USFS	727	497	130	1354
City/State	11	11	21	43
Private/Patented	96	391	176	663
National Park	14	8	62	84
Total	854	932	405	2,194

Table 1. The number of AML hazards within Clark County, differentiated by land status and by securing method. Permanent securings include things like steel-fabricated bat gates & back-filled sites. Temporary securings include wire fences and posted signs.

As we finish securing sites near the cities and move out into the more-rural areas, accessibility and ease of access decrease; this has somewhat slowed our progress over the past few years. Where sites near the cities may only require one person to effectively secure a hazard, some of the more-remote sites require additional workers to assist, hauling more materials longer distances. For this reason, the Division has been hiring summer & winter interns from UNR and UNLV to assist us in efforts. The Division also works with Boy Scout and Girls Scout troops, whom are able to assist us in a similar manor while achieving merits for their work. Since 1992 we've assisted 172 Boy & Girl Scouts in achieving their Eagle Scout, Gold or Silver award.

We've realized that the added manpower and focused efforts have allowed us to mitigate a great many hazards in a relatively short amount of time – for the interns, about ten weeks a year including the three-week winter season. This program allows the Division to provide field training and paid

internships to university students, and in return a great public service is achieved in the mitigation of dangerous areas.

We prioritize the securing work based upon each site's proximity to people and its degree of danger (depth, bad air, etc. are all criteria). Most sites, upon discovery, are secured quickly via metal T-posts and barbed wire fences; or, if the site is deemed a "minimal" hazard, it can simply be posted with warning signs. This method of temporary mitigation is effective, in that it warns any on-comers of an immediate danger. However, the ideal method of mitigating a hazard would be a permanent securing – a steel gate, back-filling or other means.

Permanent closures are much safer methods of mitigation because they simply do not allow for entry, whereas fencing is sometimes cut and vandalized. The drawback to permanent closures are, of course, the cost of work and materials. Also, not all hazards are candidates for permanent closure, as some have historical significance which needs to be preserved.

The cost of a permanent closure has a wide range – from a few hundred dollars for a very small polyurethane-expansive-foam closure, to tens of thousands of dollars for a large bate gate to be fabricated and installed on larger openings. The costs of this work quickly add up, and the number of permanent closures completed per year is a function of the amount of claim fees collected each year to fund this work. We do receive some funds from the BLM and USFS, as we work very closely with these agencies in Nevada.

Our permanent-closure-focus areas this upcoming year in Clark County total 87 hazards we have targeted for securing, located at, or near:

- The abandoned Arden Mine, southwest of Las Vegas – 40 hazards;
- South of Nelson about 2 miles – 31 hazards; and,
- North of Searchlight about one mile – 16 hazards.

For the Arden project we're working with Clark County Real Property Management as it is on County-owned land, and for the Nelson and Searchlight projects we're working with the BLM.

We would welcome any assistance the County can provide. Our AML safety program is funded through mining claim fees with some assistance from the BLM and USFS. We've managed this program successfully for 29 years, and have potentially saved many lives through hazard mitigation and public education.

I've also enclosed our annual report on the AML program. If you'd like to further discuss our AML program, or would like a presentation please call me at 702-306-4344.

Thank you for your interest in the Nevada abandoned mine lands program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Garrett A. Wake". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Garrett" being more prominent.

Garrett A. Wake

Chief of Southern Nevada Operations

Southern Nevada Office (Las Vegas)

OP: 702-486-4344 | EM: gwake@minerals.nv.gov

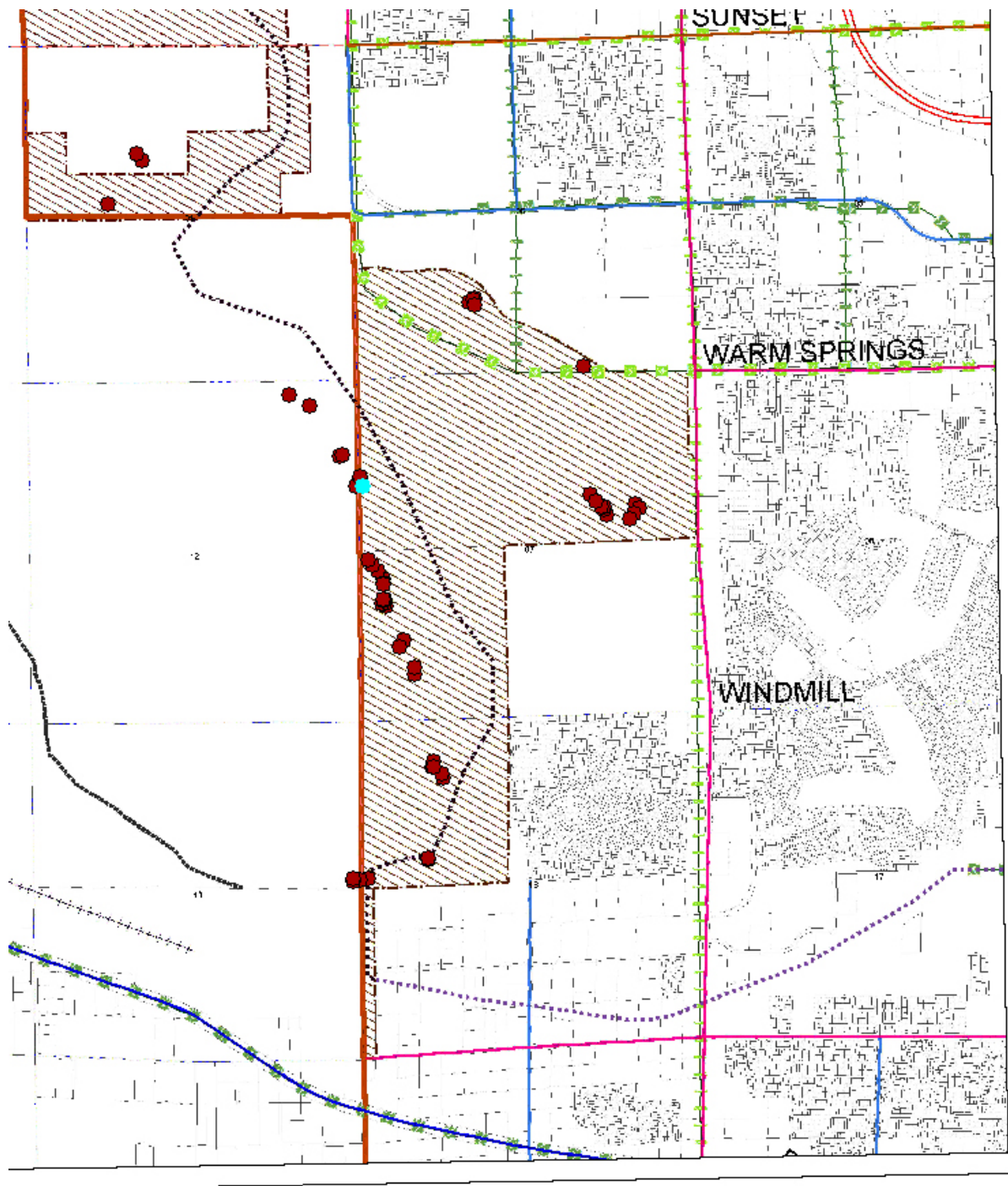


Image 1. Arden Mine Area. Base map of the Southwest Ridge Recreational Study, overlain by known hazard points (red dots). The dashed line trending North/South near the center of the map represents a possible future trail, which would lead visitors to the portal of many of these sites.

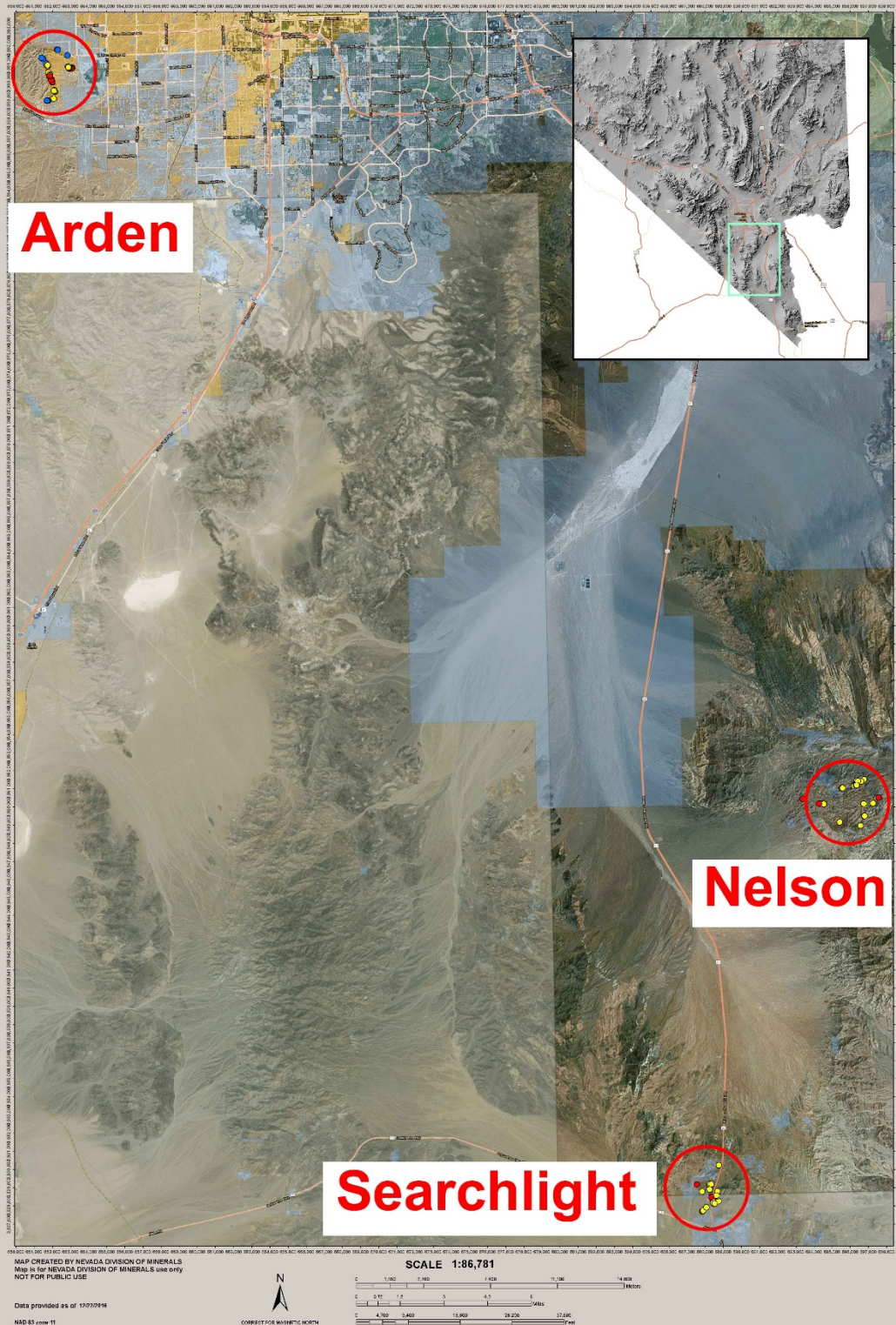


Image 2. Photograph of several abandoned mine hazard openings at the Arden Mine site. This photo was taken during an Eagle Scout project in late 2014, and has been vandalized and repaired multiple times since. Temporary barriers have been deemed ineffective, and a more permanent solution is being discussed with the Clark County Real Property management group.



Image 3. Eagle Scout project from December, 2016. A bat gate at the Arden Mine was compromised by a large hole dug beneath the gate. For this Scout's project, a concrete footing was dug and poured beneath the gate, reestablishing integrity of the securing.

NEVADA DIVISION OF MINERALS Potential Permanent Securing Locations
(2017) Clark County, NEVADA



Pershing County Lands Bill

[Home](#) / [News](#) / [Pershing County Lands Bill](#)

Pershing County Economic Development and Conservation Act

Beginning over a decade ago, Pershing County has sought to resolve the status of checkerboard lands, wilderness study areas, and other public lands issues within the county. Seventy-five percent (75%) of Pershing County is owned by the Bureau of Land Management (the “BLM”). Much of this ownership is in a checkerboard pattern. The goal of these efforts has been to provide new opportunities for economic development and protect areas of significant ecological value.

After the Pershing County Commission unanimously approved a resolution requesting that the Nevada Congressional Delegation introduce the draft public lands bill at a June 1, 2016 special commission meeting, Senator Heller and Congressman Amodei introduced S.3102/H.R.5752, with the support of the entire Nevada Delegation. Additional background information can be found on the Pershing County website at <http://pershingcounty.net/index.php/Lands-Information/pershing-county-lands.html>

Before the 114th Congress adjourned in December of 2016, the Delegation was able to secure a legislative hearing on the bill at the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, positioning the bill well to advance in the new Congress. More information on that hearing can be found [here](#). Senator Heller’s testimony introducing the bill to the committee can be found [here](#).

On February 16, 2017, Senator Heller and Congressman Amodei reintroduced the Pershing County bill in the 115th Congress. Introduction of S.____ is just the next step of the legislative process. The Senators will continue to work with Nevada stakeholders to improve the proposal moving forward.

Overview of the Pershing County Economic Development and Conservation Act:

Disposal of Specified BLM Lands – Title I

In the Winnemucca District Office of the BLM’s resource management plan, over 300,000 acres of BLM lands in Pershing County have been identified for potential disposal. The sale or exchange of these lands will create important economic development opportunities for Pershing County. This bill would allow the sale land of up to 150,000 acres identified for disposal.

Pershing County and the Secretary of the Interior would jointly select lands for disposal. The land will be sold through a competitive bidding process, unless otherwise determined by the

Secretary, for no less than fair market value. The Secretary will offer lands for sale annually until the county needs are met. Lands that the County plans to nominate include:

- Specified lands along the I-80 corridor;
- Specified lands east of Rye Patch State Recreation Area;
- Land between two parcels owned by Humboldt River Ranch south of Rye Patch Dam;
- Specified lands in the West Humboldt Range; and
- Checkerboard lands throughout Pershing County.

Additionally, the Secretary is authorized to make acre for acre swaps as long as the lands the federal government would be acquiring has important conservation values, increase public recreational opportunities, or improve overall manage efficiencies. Any transfers conducted via exchange do not count towards the 150,000 acre cap.

[MAP: 02092017 Pershing County Title I Map - Checkerboard Resolution Area](#)

Disposition of Proceeds – Title I, Section 104

The proceeds from the sale of BLM lands under both Title I and Title II will distributed as follows:

- 5% will be paid to the State of Nevada for education;
- 10% will be paid to Pershing County; and
- 85% will be placed into a special account dedicated to facilitating trades and swaps, the conservation and restoration of sage-grouse and other wildlife habitat, drought mitigation, and wildfire prevention.

Covered Land Conveyances – Title II

Specified lands identified in maps will also be made available for sale. These conveyances include a variety of requests submitted by mining companies with proposed projects in the county that would consolidate land ownership.

Pershing County will also secure the conveyance of the Unionville cemetery. The Unionville cemetery was established in the 1870s and has been in continuous use ever since. At some point, it was discovered that the cemetery lies on BLM land and the BLM is now prohibiting new burials there. Conveying the BLM lands containing the cemetery to the County would uninterrupted use of the cemetery.

[MAP: 02092017 Pershing County Title II Map - Covered Conveyances](#)

Designation of Specified Wilderness Areas – Title III

In the early 2000s, Pershing County participated in an effort to resolve the status of wilderness study areas and other BLM lands with wilderness character in Pershing County. Through this effort, county stakeholders reviewed existing and potential future land uses on the county's

wilderness study areas and other wilderness character lands and made recommendations for future management of these lands.

These recommendations include wilderness designation for the following areas:

- **Mt. Limbo** – this area includes 11,855 acres of the Mt. Limbo Wilderness Study Area.
- **North Sahwave** – this area includes 13,875 acres of wilderness character lands in the northern Sahwave Range.
- **Bluewing** – this area includes 24,900 acres of lands with wilderness characteristics in the Bluewing Mountains north of the Sahwave Range.
- **Selenite Peak** – this area includes 22,822 acres of the Selenite Mountains Wilderness Study Area.
- **Fencemaker** – this area includes 14,942 acres of lands with wilderness characteristics in the north end of the Stillwater Range.
- **Grandfathers'** – this area includes 35,339 acres in the Tobin Range, including most of the China Mountain Wilderness Study Area, a portion of the Tobin Range Wilderness Study Area, and wilderness character lands along the crest of the Tobin Range between the two wilderness study areas.
- **Cain Mountain** – this area includes 12,339 acres of the Augusta Mountain Wilderness Study Area.

[MAP: 02092017 Pershing Co Proposed Selenite Peak](#)

[MAP: 02092017 Pershing Co Proposed Grandfathers'](#)

[MAP: 02092017 Pershing Co Proposed N Sahwave](#)

[MAP: 02092017 Pershing Co Proposed Mt Limbo](#)

[MAP: 02092017 Pershing Co Proposed Blue Wing](#)

[MAP: 02092017 Pershing Co Proposed Fencemaker](#)

[MAP: 02092017 Pershing Co Proposed Cain Mountain](#)

Release of Selected Wilderness Study Areas – Title III, Section 304

As part of the process undertaken in the early 2000s to study wilderness study areas and other wilderness character lands in Pershing County, stakeholders identified lands that should be released from wilderness study area status back into multiple-use. These lands have been managed as wilderness for years. This provision releases portions of the Augusta Mountain, China Mountain, Mt. Limbo, Selenite Mountains, and Tobin Range totaling 48,600 acres. These areas are identified in each individual wilderness map.