

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management****[BLM_NV_FRN_MO4500181594]****Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Nevada Gold Mines LLC Robertson Mine Project, Lander County, NV****AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (FLPMA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Nevada Gold Mines LLC (NGM) Robertson Mine Project.

DATES: The BLM will not issue a decision on the proposal for a minimum of 30 days after the date that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes its Notice of Availability (NOA) in the *Federal Register*. The EPA usually publishes its NOAs on Fridays.

ADDRESSES: The Final EIS and documents pertinent to this proposal are available for review on the BLM National NEPA Register website at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2023088/510>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeff Kirkwood, Project Manager, telephone: (775) 635-4164; address: 50 Bastian Road, Battle Mountain, Nevada 89820; email: BLM_NV_BMDO_Robertson@blm.gov. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunication relay services for contacting Mr. Kirkwood. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action**

The BLM's purpose for the action is to respond to NGM's proposal, as described in its proposed plan of operations, and to analyze the potential environmental effects associated with the proposed action, which is the operator's proposed plan of operations, and alternatives to the proposed action. NEPA mandates that the BLM evaluate the potential effects of the proposed action and develop alternatives. The

BLM's need for the action is established by the BLM's responsibilities under Section 302 of FLPMA and the BLM Surface Management Regulations at 43 CFR subpart 3809 to respond to a proposed plan of operations and ensure that operations prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the public lands.

Proposed Action and Alternatives

Under the proposed plan of operations, NGM would construct, operate, close, and reclaim a new surface mine within the Shoshone Range approximately 58 miles southeast of Battle Mountain, Nevada, and 70 miles southwest of Elko, Nevada. The proposed action would result in changes to the authorized Robertson Exploration Plan boundary (NVN-067688), the Cortez Mine Plan boundary (NVN-67575), and the Pipeline-South Pipeline-Gold Acres Exploration Plan boundary (NVN-067261). If the Robertson Mine Project Plan is approved, these authorized plans would be modified subsequent to that approval.

The boundary of the proposed plan of operations would encompass 5,990 acres. The total disturbance associated with the proposed action, including existing, reclassified, and exploration, would be 4,356 acres, with 4,177 acres on land administered by the BLM and 179 acres on private land. The proposed surface mining activities for the Robertson Mine would include: three open pits (Gold Pan, Porphyry, and Altenburg Hill); haul roads; a waste rock facility; a heap leach facility, including a lined pad, process solution ponds and vaults, and carbon-in-column plant; and ancillary facilities, including three-stage crushing with associated conveyors; ore stockpiles; growth media stockpiles; a gravel borrow source; secondary roads; stormwater controls and diversions; a truck scale; power lines and electrical substations; water production, dewatering, and monitoring wells; water pipelines and loadouts; ready lines; fuel and reagent storage; fueling facilities; laydown yards; an assay laboratory; trailers; buildings; and communications sites. Shared facilities with the nearby Cortez Mine would include but not be limited to the haul road, a potable water well, water pipelines, warehouse and maintenance shops, hazardous waste storage, a petroleum-contaminated soils facility, ore stockpiles, the Pipeline Mill, carbon handling, a refinery, a laboratory, and the Pipeline Area 28 tailings storage facility.

The Partial Backfill Alternative would be the same as described for the proposed action, with the requirement that the Gold Pan Pit would be

backfilled to prevent the establishment of a post-mining pit lake.

Under the No Action Alternative, the development of the Robertson Mine Project would not be authorized and NGM would not construct, operate, close, and reclaim a new surface mine. Modifications to the Exploration Plan boundary, the Cortez Mine Plan boundary, and the Pipeline-South Pipeline-Gold Acres Exploration Plan boundary would not occur.

Based on the analyses contained in the EIS for the proposed Robertson Mine Project, and after carefully considering input received from the public and cooperating agencies, the BLM has selected the Partial Backfill Alternative as the BLM's preferred alternative.

Comments on the Draft EIS received from the public and internal BLM review were considered and incorporated as appropriate into the Final EIS. Public comments resulted in the addition of clarifying text but did not significantly change the impact analyses.

(Authority: 40 CFR 1506.6, 40 CFR 1506.10)

Jon D. Sherve,*District Manager, Battle Mountain District.*

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BILLING CODE 4331-21-P**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****National Park Service****[NPS-WASO-NAGPRA-NPS0038781; PPWOCRADN0-PCU00RP14.R50000]****Notice of Inventory Completion: Western Washington University, Department of Anthropology, Bellingham, WA****AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the Western Washington University, Department of Anthropology (WWU) has completed an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects and has determined that there is a cultural affiliation between the human remains and associated funerary objects and Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations in this notice.

DATES: Repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects in this notice may occur on or after November 4, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Dr. Judith Pine, Western Washington University, Department of Anthropology, Arntzen Hall 340, 516 High Street, Bellingham, WA 98225,

telephone (360) 650-4783, email pinej@wwu.edu.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA. The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of the WWU, and additional information on the determinations in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in its inventory or related records. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice.

Abstract of Information Available

Human remains representing, at least, one individual have been identified. The eight associated funerary objects are stone, bone and antler tools and red ochre.

Between July 5 and August 6, 1982, the WWU Anthropology Department conducted an archaeological survey of the Lummi River flood plain and adjacent areas within the Lummi Indian Reservation, Whatcom County, WA. The survey was conducted at the request of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and was restricted to tribal trust and allotment lands. The project was designed to provide a basic cultural resource inventory that would supplement previous archaeological investigations of other portions of the Lummi Reservation. During this survey, six previously unrecorded sites were located, and test excavations were conducted at one of these sites (Patterson 1983, An Archaeological Investigation of the Lummi River and Adjacent Portions of the Lummi Reservation, Whatcom County, Washington. Reports in Archaeology No. 19, Department of Anthropology, Western Washington University, Bellingham, Washington).

During the WWU 2018-2020 Repatriation and Rehousing Project, ancestral remains and associated funerary objects were newly identified from three sites (45-WH-171, 45-WH-172, and 45-WH-176), and they are listed below. No known individuals were identified. No hazardous chemicals are known to have been used to treat the human remains while in the custody of WWU.

Cultural Affiliation

Based on the information available and the results of consultation, cultural affiliation is clearly identified by the information available about the human remains and associated funerary objects described in this notice.

Determinations

The WWU has determined that:

- The human remains described in this notice represent the physical remains of one individual of Native American ancestry.
- The eight objects described in this notice are reasonably believed to have been placed intentionally with or near individual human remains at the time of death or later as part of the death rite or ceremony.
- There is a connection between the human remains and associated funerary objects described in this notice and the Lummi Tribe of the Lummi Reservation and the Nooksack Indian Tribe.

Requests for Repatriation

Written requests for repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects in this notice must be sent to the authorized representative identified in this notice under **ADDRESSES**. Requests for repatriation may be submitted by:

1. Any one or more of the Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice.
2. Any lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice who shows, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the requestor is a lineal descendant or an Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization with cultural affiliation.

Repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects described in this notice to a requestor may occur on or after November 4, 2024. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the WWU must determine the most appropriate requestor prior to repatriation. Requests for joint repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects are considered a single request and not competing requests. The WWU is responsible for sending a copy of this notice to the Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice.

Authority: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3003, and the implementing regulations, 43 CFR 10.10.

Dated: September 25, 2024.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[NPS-WASO-NAGPRA-NPS0038785; PPWOCRADNO-PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Inventory Completion: University of Georgia, Laboratory of Archaeology, Athens, GA

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the University of Georgia, Laboratory of Archaeology has completed an inventory of human remains has determined that there is a cultural affiliation between the human remains and Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations in this notice.

DATES: Repatriation of the human remains in this notice may occur on or after November 4, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Dr. Amanda Roberts Thompson, The University of Georgia Laboratory of Archaeology, 1125 E Whitehall Road, Athens, GA 30605, telephone (706) 542-8373, email arobthom@uga.edu.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA. The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of the University of Georgia, Laboratory of Archaeology and additional information on the determinations in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in its inventory or related records. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice.

Abstract of Information Available

Ancestor remains representing one individual was found at the Department of Anthropology at the University of Georgia. It is unclear when this individual came to be housed at the Department of Anthropology but likely was brought to the university after 1948 when the Anthropology program was founded. This individual may be associated with work by former faculty Harold Huscher who worked in the Southwest but no clear documentation exists. There is no record of any potentially hazardous substances used to treat the ancestor, although there does appear to be some glue on some of the elements.

Cultural Affiliation

Based on the information available and the results of consultation, cultural affiliation is clearly identified by the