



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION IX  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

November 22, 2005

Gene Drais, Project Manager  
Bureau of Land Management  
Ely Field Office  
HC33 Box 33500  
Ely, Nevada 89301

Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Ely District Resource Management Plan, White Pine, Lincoln and Nye Counties, Nevada (CEQ #20050308)

Dear Mr. Drais:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the above-referenced document pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The DEIS analyzes five alternatives and identifies Alternative E as the Preferred Alternative. Our review found that the DEIS sufficiently addresses the environmental impacts of this alternative. Accordingly, we have rated the Preferred Alternative as Lack of Objections (LO). Please see the enclosed Rating Factors for a description of EPA's rating system.

EPA supports the approach of the Preferred Alternative which shifts management of resources from an individual resource allocation basis to an ecological systems basis. We also commend the Bureau for a highly collaborative process that included 14 cooperating agencies, including four Indian tribes.

EPA appreciates the opportunity to review this DEIS. When the Final EIS is released for public review, please send one copy to the address above (mail code: CED-2). If you have any questions, please contact me or David P. Schmidt, the lead reviewer for this project. David can be reached at 415-972-3792 or [schmidt.davidp@epa.gov](mailto:schmidt.davidp@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

*/s/ Nova Blazej for*

Duane James, Manager  
Environmental Review Office  
Communities and Ecosystems Division

Enclosure: Summary of EPA Rating Definitions