

11, 2022, the TIG announced they had reviewed project idea submissions and initiated drafting an RP/EA, which would include a reasonable range of restoration alternatives (projects) for the Birds Restoration Type.

The TIG released the Draft RP/EA for public review and comment on March 14, 2023, and published a notice of availability in the **Federal Register** (88 FR 15734). The comment period ran through April 28, 2023. To facilitate public understanding of the document, the TIG held webinars on March 28 and April 4, 2023, during which public comments were solicited. After the public review period closed, the TIG reviewed the comments received, prepared responses to those comments, finalized the plan, and prepared a FONSI.

Overview of the Open Ocean TIG's Final RP/EA

In the Final RP/EA, the Open Ocean TIG analyzes a reasonable range of 11 alternatives and, pursuant to NEPA, a no action alternative. The TIG's seven preferred alternatives, listed below, were selected for funding and implementation.

- Predator Removal and Seabird Nesting Colony Restoration at Mona Island
- Seabird Nesting Colony Reestablishment and Protection at Desecheo National Wildlife Refuge
- Seabird Nesting Colony Protection and Enhancement at Dry Tortugas National Park
- Seabird Bycatch Reduction in Northeast U.S. and Atlantic Canada Fisheries
- Northern Gannet Nesting Colony Restoration in Eastern Canada
- Common Tern Nesting Colony Restoration in Manitoba
- Invasive Goat Removal to Restore Seabird Nesting Habitat in St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Funding to implement the selected alternatives will come from the Birds restoration allocation. The total estimated cost to implement the seven selected alternatives is approximately \$33,280,000. Restoration planning in the Open Ocean Restoration Area will continue.

Administrative Record

The Administrative Record for the Final RP/EA can be viewed electronically at <https://www.doi.gov/deepwaterhorizon/adminrecord> under folder 6.5.2.2.3.

Authority

The authority for this action is the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2701 *et*

seq.), its implementing Natural Resource Damage Assessment regulations found at 15 CFR 990, and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations found at 40 CFR 1500–1508.

Mary Josie Blanchard,

Department of the Interior, Director of Gulf of Mexico Restoration.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[BLM_NV_FRN_MO4500171133]

Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Nevada Vanadium Company Gibellini Vanadium Mine Project, Eureka County, Nevada

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), 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 the Nevada Vanadium Company Gibellini Vanadium 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 in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: The Final EIS and documents pertinent to this proposal are available for review on the BLM ePlanning project website at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2000633/510>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Scott Distel, Project Manager, telephone: (775) 635–4093; address: 50 Bastian Road, Battle Mountain, Nevada, 89820; email: sdistel@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 telecommunications relay services for contacting Mr. Distel. 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 Nevada Vanadium Company's (NVV) 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, NVV would construct and operate an open pit mine in the southern extent of the Fish Creek Range. Facilities associated with the Proposed Action include development of an open pit mine, rock disposal area, crushing facilities and stockpile, heap leach pad, process facility, process and make-up water ponds, borrow areas, mine and access roads, water and power supply lines, and ancillary facilities. The estimated project life consists of 1.5 years of construction, 7 years of operation, 4 years of active reclamation and closure, and up to 30 years of post-closure monitoring. In addition, NVV would complete exploration operations as part of the proposed Plan of Operations. The project area includes a total of 6,456 acres of BLM-administered public lands, of which approximately 806 acres of surface disturbance would occur due to project-related operations. No state or private lands are included in the project area. The operator would reclaim surface disturbances under the Proposed Action and would prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the lands. Final reclamation of the project area would occur at the end the project although every effort would be made to identify concurrent reclamation opportunities during the life of the operation.

The *South Access Road Alternative* would include the same mine components as described for the Proposed Action, except the access road would be constructed in a different location. This alternative access road would be approximately 7 miles long and extend from County Road M–103 (Duckwater Road) to the project area.

The access road would be constructed parallel to the power line corridor. Overall, this alternative would result in approximately 38 additional acres of surface disturbance relative to the Proposed Action. Total surface disturbance would include 844 acres of BLM-administered land. Post-reclamation topography would be similar to that of the Proposed Action, except the access road would be in a different location.

The *Renewable Energy Alternative* would consist of the same overall operations as described for the Proposed Action except this alternative would include supporting the mine operations with a combination of renewable energy sources and a utility interconnection with future large-scale battery storage. This alternative would include the installation of a solar energy facility with enough solar electric photovoltaic capacity for the site to become a net generation facility with battery storage able to perform peak smoothing and daily load management.

This alternative would result in approximately 33 additional acres of surface disturbance compared to the Proposed Action. Total surface disturbance for the Renewable Energy Alternative would include 839 acres of public lands.

Under the *No Action Alternative*, the BLM would not authorize the Plan of Operations, and the operations described in the Proposed Action would not occur. Mineral resources would remain undeveloped, and the construction and operation of the proposed mine and associated facilities would not occur.

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

Public comments on the Draft EIS received 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.)

Douglas W. Furtado,
District Manager, Battle Mountain District.
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[NPS-WASO-VRP-W5—NPS0036398 ;
PPWOWMADL3, PPMPASAS1Y.TD0000 (222);
OMB Control Number 1024-0022]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Backcountry/Wilderness Use Permit

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.
ACTION: Notice of information collection;
request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 we, the National Park Service (NPS) are proposing to renew an information collection with revisions.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before October 16, 2023.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and suggestions on the information collection requirements should be submitted by the date specified above in **DATES** to <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>. Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function. Please provide a copy of your comments to Phadrea Ponds, NPS Information Collection Clearance Officer (ADIR-ICCO), 13461 Sunrise Valley Drive (MS-244) Reston, VA 20192 (mail); or phadrea_ponds@nps.gov (email). Please include 1024-0022 in the subject line of your comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request additional information about this Information Collection Request (ICR), contact Roger Semler, Chief, Wilderness Stewardship Division at roger_semler@nps.gov (email) or 202-430-7615 (Phone). Please reference OMB Control Number 1024-0022 in the subject line of your comments. 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 telecommunications relay services. 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. You may also view the ICR at <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3501et seq.) and 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), we provide the public and other Federal agencies with an opportunity to

comment on new, proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand our information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format.

A **Federal Register** notice with a 60-day public comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on (87 FR 73776) on December 1, 2022. We received the following comments in response to that Notice:

Comment #1: Email From John Ryter on 12/1/2022

I'd like to comment on the proposal to require permits for climbing in national parks. It's hard to determine whether this proposal means climbers would be required to get permits in advance, and whether there would be limits on the number of permits available for a given day. If there is a limit on how many are available on a given day, I am concerned that the addition of permits would cause fewer climbers to abandon or reschedule their climbs due to weather, and we would see an increase in injuries, rescues, and fatalities occurring in national parks. This could be mitigated by reducing the time in advance that permits could be acquired (e.g., cannot get permits more than 4 days in advance), but that presents its own challenges.

There are already cases where a permit is a de facto requirement for doing a climb, such as those where backcountry camping is necessary for most non-professional climbers. In my experience, this hasn't been an issue (there have been enough sites available that it was possible to get a site the day of), but since so many climbs require early starts (6 a.m. or earlier), day-of permits would be pretty challenging to do. It would also be good to link those sorts of campsites, like the lower saddle of the Grand Teton, with the climbing permits in some way so people don't end up with one and not the other.

If it's simply a sign-in sheet at the trailhead, that seems very reasonable and I have no concerns. My only other question is what the cutoff grade for climbing would be—all off-trail travel, class 3 or 4 or higher, or roped vs unroped? Either way, being able to do the permit at the trailhead or online would be a great idea.

NPS Response/Action Taken

During the 60-day **Federal Register** comment period, the National Park Service proposed creating a new Form