United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Carson City Field Office July 2004

Bureau of Land Management
Carson City Field Office
5665 Morgan Mill Road
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Environmental Assessment

Cinderlite Trucking Corporation
Goni Pit Expansion Project
NV-030-04-15

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carson City Field Office
5665 Morgan Mill Road
Carson City, Nevada 89701
http://www.nv.blm.gov

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

In Reply Refer To:
NVN-77480
3600
(NV-033)
JUL 2 1 2004

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review is the Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared for the Cinderlite Trucking Corporation, Goni Pit Expansion Project as a result of their application for a material sale. The subject material sale would allow Cinderlite to continue and expand their construction aggregate extraction operation onto adjacent public lands. This document addresses the environmental consequences and other issues identified by the public scoping process conducted on behalf of the project. The document also addresses a no-action alternative in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Public comments on the EA will be accepted during a 30-day comment period. In addition, a public open house to accept comments and answer questions is scheduled for August 12, 2004 (5:30 pm - 7:30 pm), at the BLM Carson City Field Office at 5665 Morgan Mill Road in Carson City. Written comments must be postmarked or faxed by August 20, 2004, and should be sent to:

Bureau of Land Management
Carson City Field Office
Attn: Dan Erbes, Project Manager
5665 Morgan Mill Road
Carson City, NV 89701
Fax: (775) 885-6147

BLM will issue a decision record that will consider the comments received. For more information please contact Dan Erbes of my staff at (775)885-6149.

Sincerely,

Charles P. Pope
Assistant Field Manager
Carson City Field Office

enclosure: Environmental Assessment – Cinderlite Trucking Corporation, Goni Pit Expansion Project

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Cinderlite Trucking Corporation – Goni Pit Expansion
EA-NV-030-04-15
N-77480

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based on the analysis of environmental assessment EA-NV-030-04-15 for the Cinderlite Trucking Corporation Goni Pit Expansion, I have determined that the action will not have a significant effect on the human environment, and therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

Rationale

The Proposed Action, as mitigated, meets the criteria described in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to prevent undue and unnecessary degradation of public land and the 43 CFR 3600 Mineral Materials Disposal Regulations. The Proposed Action is in conformance with the Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan (2001) which states that the BLM desired outcome is to encourage development of energy and mineral resources in a timely manner to meet national, regional and local needs consistent with the objectives for other public land uses.

Charles P. Pope

Charles Pope
Assistant Manager, Non-renewable Resources
Carson City Field Office

7/21/04
Date

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Carson City Field Office
5665 Morgan Mill Road
Carson City, Nevada 89701

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

EA# NV-030-04-15

Submitted for:

Cinderlite
Goni Pit Expansion Project

July 2004

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Cinderlite Trucking Corporation (Cinderlite) has submitted an application for a material sale on public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Carson City Field Office. With this application, Cinderlite proposes to expand their construction aggregate extraction operation along Goni Road in Carson City onto adjacent public lands. Cinderlite has been mining at their present location on Goni Road for approximately 13 years. The pit has been in operation for over 35 years.

The current operation is located in Carson City, Nevada approximately 2 miles north of the Carson City Airport along Goni Road. The address of the pit is 6100 Goni Road. The assessor's parcel number is APN 8-011-58. The current operation has disturbed approximately 16.4 acres of a 40 acre parcel of private land owned by Golden Sierra Investments, described as the SW¼ of the SW¼ of Section 28, Township 16 North, Range 20 East, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian (MDB&M). Cinderlite leases the 40 acre parcel on which the pit is located from Golden Sierra Investments. Figure 1 illustrates the general location of the pit in the Carson City area. Figure 2 is a vicinity map showing access to the project site via Goni Road. Figure 3 illustrates the land status of the project area, Cumulative Effects Study Area (CESA) boundary and the surrounding property.

Cinderlite primarily mines base aggregate, bedding sand, drain rock and rip rap for the local construction market. The operation has been in production since the late 1960's. The operation was first permitted by City of Carson in 1979. Cinderlite acquired the pit in 1991 and is operating under Special Use Permit (SUP) U-79-30 issued by the City of Carson. Cinderlite has an $8,000 reclamation bond with the City of Carson as a condition of their current SUP.

In order to authorize a material sale on public lands, BLM is required to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) to analyze the impacts that the Proposed Action and possible alternatives would have on the human environment. This Environmental Assessment (EA) follows the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing the provisions of NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508), and the BLM's NEPA Handbook H-1790-1 (BLM, 1988).

1.2 Purpose and Need

The purpose of the Proposed Action would be to allow Cinderlite to continue and expand their construction aggregate extraction operation for approximately 10 to 15 years beyond that of their currently permitted operation on private lands. Cinderlite predicts the lifespan of their current operation to be roughly ten years. The Proposed Action would include mining approximately 3.8 million cubic yards or 5.7 million tons of mineral materials from the public lands. Total production from both public and private lands per the Proposed Action would be approximately 6.7 million cubic yards or 10 million tons. At the current production rate of approximately 250,000 tons per year, and an annual growth of approximately 5%, this would equate to a 20 to 25 year lifespan for the Proposed Action.

The need for this aggregate operation is to provide the closest source of aggregate to Carson City. Utilizing this source, rather than bringing in aggregate from a further distance, would keep transportation costs for construction aggregates lower resulting in lower construction costs for both private construction projects and public works. The shorter overall transport distance from this aggregate source to point-of-use would lower emissions and reduce traffic congestion.

The Proposed Action would also eliminate a steep, visible cut face on the private land adjacent to the public land, and would result in a more visibly pleasing reclaimed and revegetated landscape at the cessation of mining operations. Both Cinderlite and the previous operators mined material from the private land, eventually forming a high, visible cut face along the northern property line bordering public lands. Expanding the mining operation to the north onto public lands would mitigate this visual impact.

1.3 Issues and Concerns

The following issues and concerns were identified by BLM specialists:

- Visual impacts
- Potential impacts to Cultural Resources
- Impacts to undisturbed lands
- Impacts to adjacent land owners and nearby residents
- Soil erosion
- Socio-economic impact
- Native American religious concerns
- Vegetation
- Noise
- Traffic
- Air quality (dust)

1.4 Land Use Plan Conformance Statement

The Proposed Action and No Action Alternative discussed in this document are in conformance with the Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan (BLM, 2001), specifically with administrative actions and standard operating procedures set forth for minerals (pages MIN-5 through MIN-6). The Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan also incorporates, by reference, the Carson City Urban Interface Plan Amendment (1996) developed jointly by the BLM and the City of Carson. With regards to salable minerals, that document states:

> "Development of valid existing mining claims and salable minerals may be constrained, but not precluded as a result of proposed management prescriptions for the protection of open space for Carson City. The issues associated with saleable minerals will be addressed in a joint aggregate resources plan to be developed cooperatively with Carson City."

Because the "joint aggregate resources plan" referenced above has not yet been developed, open space issues resulting from mineral material disposals in the Carson City urban interface must then be evaluated jointly by BLM and the City of Carson on a case by case basis. This document was developed by the BLM with the City of Carson as a coordinating agency.

1.5 Other Applicable Statues, Regulations and Policies

The BLM has the responsibility and authority to manage saleable resources on public lands in accordance with various statutes and regulations. Projects on BLM administered public lands are conducted in accordance with the requirements of 43 CFR 3600 Mineral Materials Disposal, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

2.0 PROPOSED ACTION AND NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Chapter 2.0 describes the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative.

2.1 Proposed Action

Cinderlite proposes to continue and expand their existing aggregate extraction operation onto public lands administered by the BLM Carson City Field Office. Approximately 28.2 acres of public land and an additional 12.9 acres of private land adjacent to their existing operation would be disturbed with the Proposed Action. The proposed expansion project would extend the mine life for an additional 20 to 25 years.

2.1.1 Description of Existing Operations

Cinderlite currently mines competent, to decomposed granodiorite bedrock which is processed and screened to make bedding sand for lining utility trenches, aggregate (crushed rock) for road construction projects, and rip-rap (rocks and boulders) for use in landscaping and erosion control projects. The mining process begins by stripping topsoil ahead of the working face along the north and west boundaries of the pit. Once the topsoil is stripped and stockpiled for later use in reclamation, the decomposed granodiorite is excavated using either a bulldozer or front-end loader. A front-end loader is also used to transport excavated material to the processing plant.

The working face slope is maintained from about 45 degrees in sandier zones to nearly vertical in competent rock. Benches are incorporated into the working face approximately every 50 vertical feet and are approximately 40 feet wide. Decomposed granite can be fed directly to the processing plant, while competent rock must be drilled and blasted periodically to reduce the rock to a size that can be accommodated by the plant.

The aggregate processing plant is situated in the pit floor area on private land. The plant includes a primary jaw crusher, two cone crushers, three vibratory screens and assorted conveyor belts. The processed material is sorted and stockpiled according to size. Processed material is hauled in trucks to various construction sites in Carson City and the surrounding communities within approximately a 75 mile radius. The majority of material is hauled in triple trailers that hold approximately 38 tons.

The current operation requires two front-end loader operators, a bulldozer operator, two plant personnel and a water truck driver.

2.1.2 Location

The proposed project is located approximately 2 miles north of the Carson City Airport in Sections 28 and 29 of Township 16 North, Range 20 East, MDB&M. Figure 1 illustrates the general location of the project in the Carson City area. Figure 2 is a vicinity map, and Figure 3 illustrates the land ownership of the project area, including the location of the Proposed Action on public lands. Figure 3 also illustrates the Cumulative Effects Study Area (CESA). Access to the project site is via Goni Road as shown on Figure 2.

The proposed expansion project would be immediately adjacent to the existing operation to both the west and north. To the west the proposed operation would encompass approximately another 12.9 acres of a 40 acre parcel of private land, also owned by Golden Sierra Investments, in the SE¼ of the SE¼ of Section 29. To the north the proposed operation would encompass approximately 28.2 acres of public land in the

NW¼ of the SW¼ of Section 28 and the NE¼ of the SE¼ of Section 29, Township 16 North, Range 20 East, MDB&M.

2.1.3 General Project Overview

A summary of the disturbed acreage during the 20 to 25 year life of the pit would be as follows:

Existing disturbance on private lands	16.4 acres
Proposed additional disturbance on private lands	12.9 acres
Proposed disturbance on public lands	28.2 acres
Proposed Total Disturbance	57.5 acres

Total additional material that could be mined under this proposal is approximately 6.7 million cubic yards or 10 million tons. Approximately 5.7 million tons would come from public lands and 4.3 million tons from the private land. These 10 million tons would be extracted within the next 20 to 25 years assuming an average annual production increase of approximately 5% per year.

2.1.4 Proposed Mine Plan

A detailed mining and reclamation plan has been submitted to the BLM. A summary of the mining plan is as follows:

- Mining would take place from south to north
- Active mine slopes in bedrock would be approximately 1:1 (horizontal to vertical) with benches approximately 40 feet wide and 50 feet high.
- All finished slopes at the cessation of operations would be no steeper than 3:1.
- The bottom of the pit would remain at the approximate same elevation as present.
- All drainage would be internal with no discharge to adjacent property.
- Topsoil or growth medium encountered during mining would be stockpiled for later use during reclamation and revegetation.
- There would be no waste material generated during mining.
- Blasting would be anticipated to be undertaken four to six times per year. Blasting would be conducted by contractors who specialize in that field. Prior to any blasting the fire department would be notified and appropriate safety measures would be enforced to ensure no people are in the vicinity of the blast.

In addition, the following conditions of approval would be included in the SUP to mitigate the City of Carson's concerns and to prevent hazards to public health and safety. Comments clarifying Cinderlite's current or proposed operation are in italics. The City of Carson may impose additional conditions for Cinderlite's pending SUP.

- Cinderlite would conform to the requirements of the Carson City Health Department for noise, erosion and dust control.
- Stockpiles would be wetted down.
- Cinderlite would comply with State and local air pollution regulations. *Cinderlite has a State of Nevada Air Quality Permit, No. AP1442-0872.01.*

- Protection of the natural drainage courses in the area. *Stormwater from natural drainages intercepted by the mining operation would be contained in the pit. Hence, no stormwater discharge would be allowed to leave the property.*
- Hours of operation are 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. Operating on Sunday would be on emergency basis only. *An example of emergency operation would be extraction of material for flood control as with the 1997 flooding of the Washoe and Carson Valleys. It should also be noted that certain public works projects in the Carson City area require night-time construction in order to mitigate traffic impacts. If Cinderlite is furnishing material for such a job it may become necessary to haul out of the plant during odd hours. This would only apply to those public works jobs requiring night-time work.*
- Vehicles entering and leaving the site could not travel at a speed greater than 25 miles per hour.
- The roadway between the end of the pavement and the site itself would be treated to reduce dust. *Cinderlite has placed asphalt grindings on Goni Road from the pit south to the end of pavement to mitigate dust.*
- Cinderlite would limit public access to the pit. *Vehicular access to the pit is restricted by a gate at the main entrance, and by strategically placed boulders along the north side of the powerline access road which runs along the south side of the pit. In addition during pit expansion, there would be caution signs placed approximately every 200 feet along the pit perimeter. Fencing and/or a perimeter berm would be incorporated into the mine plan as needed for public safety. A security guard would watch the site on weekends.*

2.1.5 Equipment

Cinderlite currently utilizes a Caterpillar D9 bulldozer to rip and push the material to where a Caterpillar 980 loader can pick it up to feed the plant. Another Caterpillar 980 loader is used to load trucks. As production increases gradually over time, this equipment need would likely double. Excavation equipment would gradually have to be improved and upgraded over time to accommodate the gradual increase in production.

The aggregate processing plant would remain at its present location on private land. It would not move onto the BLM land. The plant includes a primary jaw crusher, two cone crushers, three vibratory screens and assorted conveyor belts. As production gradually increases these facilities would have to be expanded and upgraded.

2.1.6 Work Force

The work force involved in the mining operation would be the same as the existing operation. There are a total of 6 to 10 employees on site and they would continue to be employed for the duration of the proposed action. Cinderlite personnel would oversee all activities. The personnel working at the site all live in the Carson City area.

2.1.7 Access to Project Area

Access to the current operation is via a short access road from Goni Road as shown on Figure 2. The access road is gated to prevent unauthorized access to the pit and for safety reasons. Access to the expansion on both the private and public lands would be through the existing operation. No additional roads would be constructed.

2.1.8 General Schedule of Operations

The proposed expansion onto public lands would not occur without all necessary permits in place from the City of Carson and the BLM. The life of the project, per the proposed mining plan, would be between 20 and 25 years. This time period reflects an overall production growth of approximately 5% per year until the proposed 10 million tons of material could be mined.

Reclamation would be undertaken at the time when any portion of the disturbed area was to be permanently abandoned, and would not likely commence until approximately five to ten years before the anticipated mine closure.

2.1.9 Environmental Monitoring and Protection Measures

Infrastructure

Operator vigilance and Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be used to minimize surface disturbance, erosion and the potential for fuel and oil spills. Any spills would be reported and remediated according to Nevada State and Federal regulations.

Surface Water Management

A Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) has been prepared as a part of the mining plan and to satisfy requirements for the City of Carson. The hydrographic basin encompasses 272 acres. All stormwater drainage would be retained on site. Standard BMPs would be used to control surface water runoff and reduce the potential for soil erosion at the project site. A Stormwater Management Permit (SWP) would be obtained from the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), Bureau of Water Pollution Control. A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SPPP) for the project would be implemented as part of the permit requirements. Straw bales and/or other sediment structures would be installed as necessary to reduce possible sedimentation.

Ground-water Management

No ground water has been encountered to date by the present operation. It is not anticipated that ground water would be encountered during the life of the proposed project.

Dust Control

Activities for the proposed project would be conducted under an air emission permit issued by the NDEP. The current operation does have an air quality permit in place. Fugitive dust would be controlled by applying water to all traffic areas.

Weed Management

Cinderlite would develop and implement a weed monitoring and control program that meets BLM requirements. Appendix A lists the noxious weeds species in Nevada. This plan would include the following procedures:

Cinderlite would implement a weed control program to control noxious weeds found during operations and after reclamation.

Straw bales used for erosion control barriers would be certified weed free.

A BLM-approved certified weed-free seed mix would be used for reclamation of all disturbed areas.

Cultural Resources

A cultural resource inventory was conducted over the project area in January and February, 2004. No cultural resources eligible for the National Register of Historic Places were identified within the project area. In the event that unexpected cultural resources are discovered during operations, Cinderlite's Mine Superintendent would immediately cease operations at the pit and notify the BLM in accordance with 43 CFR 10.4(g).

Wildlife

No restriction of wildlife movements in the project area would occur since the installation of security fences or other movement restrictive features would not occur. Should any wildlife mortalities occur, as a consequence of the Proposed Action, the BLM and the Nevada Division of Wildlife (NDOW) would be notified immediately. Any nest sites identified during the course of mining would be avoided.

Spill Response and Control

No fuel storage areas are planned with the Proposed Action. Fuels and lubricants associated with heavy equipment operation and refueling are the only materials that would potentially be spilled. All spills, regardless of size or quantity, would be reported immediately to Cinderlite's Mine Superintendent who would be responsible for spill clean up. Spill clean up procedures would be conducted by trained personnel.

Information reported to the Mine Superintendent regarding the spill would include the chemical name of the substance that spilled or leaked; an estimate of the quantity that spilled or leaked; the time and duration of the release; where the release is deposited; why the release occurred; any immediate health and safety, or environmental threats or issues; and the spill response action(s) taken.

Spills of any petroleum hydrocarbon substance that exceeds 25 gallons on the ground; spills that cannot be totally cleaned up within 24 hours; and spills of any substance that reach a surface water body would be reported immediately to state and federal agencies include

2.1.10 Reclamation

The Proposed Mining and Reclamation Plan provides details for reclamation of proposed mining activities as required by both the BLM and the City of Carson. Cinderlite would provide an acceptable reclamation bond.

As discussed in the mining plan, all finished slopes at the cessation of operations would be recontoured to be no steeper than 3:1 and would be blended into the surrounding natural landscape. The 3:1 slopes would be covered with previously stockpiled topsoil and growth medium, making them amenable to revegetation.

The following reclamation conditions are included as conditions of approval in the SUP. Comments clarifying Cinderlite's current or proposed operation are in italics. The City of Carson may impose additional conditions for Cinderlite's pending SUP.

- Progressive rehabilitation of the site during excavation operations. *Concurrent reclamation would be undertaken when a portion or portions of the pit have been excavated to finished topography. Progressive rehabilitation would likely not commence until approximately five to ten years before the anticipated mine closure as all flat areas would likely be required for stockpile storage or vehicle traffic and final slope locations would not be attained until mining eventually progresses to those locations. At the cessation of mining operations all slopes would be recontoured to 3:1.*
- There would be a minimum of 6 inches of top soil and native plant material. *Growth medium or top soil encountered during excavation of the granodiorite would be stockpiled for latter reclamation purposes. Approximately 46,000 cubic yards of growth medium or topsoil would be required to cover 57.5 acres with 6.0 inches of growth medium or topsoil.*
- The finishing of all slopes shall meet Soil Conservation Service (Natural Resources Conservation Service [NRCS]) approval. *At the cessation of operations, or for concurrent reclamation at those areas meeting the criteria, the slopes would be recontoured to no steeper than 3:1 unless otherwise approved by the BLM.*
- Adequate bonding shall be maintained. *Cinderlite currently has a reclamation bond in the amount of $8,000 with the City of Carson. The proposed expansion of the mining plan, if approved, would necessitate a revision of this bond, the amount of which would be based on the preparation of a reclamation cost estimate. This cost estimate would be subject to the approval of both the BLM and the City of Carson.*
- A sequential revegetation plan shall be incorporated in the operational plan. *Any concurrent or final reclamation would include revegetation. The seed mix used and application methods for the revegetation plan would be as recommended and approved by both the BLM and the City of Carson.*
- During mining and at cessation of operations the pit configuration would be such that all runoff would be contained within the pit.

In addition, all equipment, pipe, scrap and other waste material would be removed from the site.

Topsoil would be ripped and scarified to prepare the seedbed and promote revegetation.

Revegetation would be undertaken using the BLM recommended certified weed-free seed mix and application rate. All seeding would be undertaken at the appropriate time of the year per recommendations from the BLM. Reseeding would be done by hand broadcast methods. No revegetation would be planned in areas where BLM approves bedrock to be exposed at the surface.

Monitoring of the reclaimed site would be undertaken to assure that revegetation is satisfactory. Annual inspections by a qualified individual would occur during peak green growing seasons. If revegetation is not successful after the second season, Cinderlite would coordinate alternative revegetation requirements with the BLM.

<u>Interim Stabilization</u>

Should pit operations cease for a period of over 1 month, surface disturbance would be subject to interim stabilization

Concurrent Reclamation

Cinderlite would implement concurrent reclamation activities when appropriate. Any concurrent reclamation activities would be coordinated with the BLM. Seeding should be done at the appropriate time October through January.

2.2 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would result in the BLM not allowing that portion of the expansion project located on public lands to go forward. Since there is presently no mining on this ground, the No Action Alternative would keep the property in a natural, undisturbed state.

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Chapter 3.0 describes the existing environment of the proposed project area.

3.1 Scoping and Issue Identification

Internal and external (public) scoping was completed to identify any agency and/or public concerns, respectively, associated with the Proposed Action. Internal scoping was conducted by BLM resource specialists, and Carson City Planning and Community Development Department (PCDD) staff. The public scoping period was initiated with a legal notice published in the Nevada Appeal on April 14, 2004. Notification was also mailed directly to residents living within in the CESA, as well as several households located immediately south and west of the existing operation. In addition to notifying the public of Cinderlite's application for a material sale on public lands, the public notice advertised a Public Open House at the BLM Carson City Field Office that was held on April 29, 2004. BLM, Cinderlite, and Carson City PCDD representatives were on hand at the Public Open House to discuss the Proposed Action and answer questions from the public.

The public scoping period began on April 14, 2004 and concluded on May 13, 2004. BLM received 22 responses. The predominant issues identified during the public scoping period related to increased truck traffic on Goni Road, visual impacts, noise and the interim loss of open space. Other notable issues surrounded the past compliance history of the proponent, zoning, air quality, hydrology, and adverse affects to property values adjacent to the operation. Also mentioned were the impacts to wildlife and cultural resources, and the use of explosives in the mining operation.

With the exception of Cinderlite's past compliance history and zoning, all of the issues identified through the internal and external scoping process will be carried forward and analyzed either directly or indirectly. Zoning and compliance history are under the authority of the Carson City PCDD. Based on discussions with the Carson City PCDD, Cinderlite is in compliance with their SUP. The SUP allows their current extraction operation on property zoned Conservation Reserve. Cinderlite has applied for a new SUP with the Carson City PCDD to expand their extraction operation onto public lands zoned Public Reserve. A material sale is discretionary on the adjacent public lands and subject to compliance with state and local government regulations.

3.2 Proposed Action

The proposed Cinderlite pit expansion project includes approximately 41 acres of public and private lands located in a small basin on the south slope of the Virginia Range at the north end of the Eagle Valley, in Carson City, Nevada. Access to the project area is from Goni Road, 1.5 miles north of its junction with Arrowhead Drive. Project elevation extends from 5,050 to 5,380 feet Above Mean Sea Level (AMSL). Surface soils are gravelly sandy loams. Vegetation in the project area consists of big sagebrush, antelope bitterbrush, and grasses, with scattered pinyon pine and juniper trees. The Virginia Range is a northeast-southwest trending mountain range just east of the juncture between the Basin and Range and the Sierra Nevada physiographic provinces. Intermountain valleys west of the range include Eagle, Washoe, Pleasant, Steamboat, and Truckee Meadows. Dayton, Stagecoach, and Churchill valleys form the lowlands to the east. The Carson River forms the southern, and the Truckee River forms the northern boundaries of the Virginia Range.

The fifteen critical elements of the human environment listed in Table 1 are subject to requirements specified in statute, regulation, policy or executive order and must be considered in the Proposed Action and Alternatives in all EAs. Those critical elements marked as not present would not be impacted by, nor

cause impacts to the Proposed Action, and are not addressed in this EA as provided in CEQ guidelines 40 CFR 1500.4.

Table 1
Critical Elements of the Human Environment

Critical Element	Present	Affected	Critical Element	Present	Affected
Air Quality	Yes	Yes	Migratory Birds	Yes	Yes
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	No	No	Native American Religious Concerns	Yes	Yes
Cultural Resources	Yes	Yes	Special Status Species	Yes	Yes
Environmental Justice	No	No	Water Quality	Yes	Yes
Farmlands	No	No	Wetlands/Riparian	Yes	Yes
Floodplains	No	No	Wild & Scenic Rivers	No	No
Hazardous Waste	Yes	Yes	Wilderness	No	No
Invasive, Nonnative Species and Noxious Weeds	Yes	Yes			

In addition to the critical elements listed in Table 1, the following other resources are present in the project area and could be impacted by the Proposed Action. The BLM has determined these resources will be analyzed as part of this EA.

- Geology
- Lands Use
- Noise
- Recreation
- Socio-Economic
- Soils
- Traffic
- Vegetation
- Visuals
- Wildlife

3.2.1 Air Quality

Airsheds in Nevada are delineated according to hydrographic region boundaries. The project area is located within the State of Nevada Hydrographic Region No. 104 and is considered within the Eagle Valley hydrographic sub-basin (USGS, 1996). The air quality in the area is generally good. The wind is primarily from the west between March and September, with an average wind speed of 6.2 miles per hour (mph). During October through February the wind is primarily from the south and the average wind speed is 5.24 mph (WRCC-A, 2004). The mean annual precipitation is approximately 10.51 inches (WRCC-B, 2004). July is the hottest month with a mean of 89° Fahrenheit (F). The coldest month is December with a mean of 45.6° F. The mean annual low temperature is 34.5° F and the mean annual high temperature is 66.3° F (WRCC-B, 2004).

The principal source of air contaminants in the project area is from wind blown dust, development activities, traffic and off-highway vehicle use along dirt roads. Current mining and commercial activities also contribute to air born dust.

3.2.2 Cultural Resources

Cinderlite retained MACTEC in January of 2004 to undertake a cultural resource inventory, CR3-2131(P), on approximately 39 acres of public and private land covering all areas where the pit expansion disturbance is proposed. No cultural resources eligible for the National Register of Historic Places were identified within the project area.

The project area is located in the Carson City Mining District, which dates to 1862 (Tingley, 1998). Although there are historic mines in the vicinity on Sugarloaf and Nine Hill, none are located within the project area. The current Cinderlite pit opened in the 1960s.

3.2.3 Hazardous Waste

The current mining activities at the site require the use of the following materials classified as hazardous: diesel fuel, gasoline, greases, antifreeze, solvents, etc. used to maintain and operate equipment. The transportation or storage of significant volumes of hazardous material has not been required and production activities have not generated waste characterized as hazardous under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

3.2.4 Invasive, Non-native Species and Noxious Weeds

The area covered by the Proposed Action supports indigenous vegetation. A limited vegetation assessment of the project area implemented in February 2004 identified one introduced plant species, cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), as occurring within the Proposed Action area. A noxious weed survey conducted in 2003 of stockpiled material, the existing pit and access and haul roads on behalf of Syblon Reid (MACTEC, 2003) also identified tumble mustard (*Sisymbrium altissimum*), storks bill (*Erodium cicutarium*), and Russian thistle (*Salsola* sp.) as additional non-native species occurring in disturbed areas pertinent to the current mining operations. Also identified during the 2003 survey was hoary cress (*Cardaria draba*), a state of Nevada noxious weed. It was found to be occurring at the mine entrance on the south side of the road.

3.2.5 Migratory Bird Species

Neo-tropical migratory birds are bird species that migrate from the temperate portions of the continent to winter in the tropics of North and South America. Neo-tropical migrants are most commonly associated with habitats with a strong vertical component of woody shrubs and trees. The primary locations of these communities, in the vicinity of the project area, include the riparian communities associated with springs and seeps of the Virginia Range. Riparian habitats vary in size and quality for Neo-tropical Migrants. Meadow habitats dominated by grasses and grass-like species without brush or tree cover have less bird species diversity than those with multi-layered canopies. No migratory bird species were observed during the February 2004 site visit. However, the avian breeding season runs generally from May to July. Nesting birds, their nests, eggs and young, are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

3.2.6 Native American Religious Concerns

Consultation is currently on-going with the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California.

3.2.7 Special Status Species

The United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was contacted and requested to furnish information on special status species (threatened and endangered species and species of concern) with the potential to occur within the project area. The USFWS letter of response dated August 6, 2003 is included in Appendix B.

The Nevada Natural Heritage Program (NNHP) was also contacted concerning special status species in the project area. A copy of the Nevada Natural Heritage letter is included in Appendix B.

The list below identifies the special status species from the USFWS and NNHP as potentially occurring within the Project Area.

- **Threatened Species**

Bald Eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

- **Species of Concern**

Mammals

Pygmy rabbit	*Brachylagus idahoensis*
Townsend's big-eared bat	*Corynorhinus townsendii*
Spotted bat	*Euderma maculatum*
Small footed-myotis	*Myotis ciliolabrum*
Long-eared myotis	*Myotis evotis*
Fringed myotis	*Myotis thysanodes*
Long-legged myotis	*Myotis volans*
Yuma myotis	*Myotis yumanensis*

Birds

Western burrowing owl	*Athene cunicularia hypugaea*
Ferruginous hawk	*Buteo regalis*
Sage-grouse	*Centrocercus urophasianus*
Black tern	*Chlidoniaus niger*
Least bittern	*Ixobrychus exilis hesperis*
White-faced ibis	*Plegadis chihi*

Invertebrate

Carson Valley wood nymph	*Limenitis archippus lahontani*
Carson Valley silver spot	*Speyeria nokomis carsonensis*

Plants

Sagebrush pygmy leaf	*Loeflingia squarrosa ssp. artemisiarum*
Steamboat monkeyflower	*Mimulus Ovatus*

The following special status species were eliminated from further analysis in this EA as the project area does not contain suitable habitat: bat species, pygmy rabbit, bald eagle, Western burrowing owl, ferruginous hawk, greater sage-grouse, black tern, least bittern, white-faced ibis, Carson Valley wood nymph and Carson Valley silver spot, and steamboat monkey flower. Note that steamboat monkey flower is relegated to soils derived from siliceous sinter deposited by hot springs, acidic hydrothermically altered andesite or rhyolite deposits, and possibly sandy alkaline valley floor deposits. These types of soils are not present in the project area, thus suitable habitat is not present for this species.

The following discussion presents a description of the single special status species and associated habitat requirements that has the potential to occur within the project area.

Sagebrush pygmy leaf is a BLM Special Status Species. The database search conducted by the NNHP did not identify any occurrences of this plant species within the project area. However, the nearest known occurrence of this species is located between East College Parkway and the Northridge residential development adjacent to Roop Street, approximately 4 miles distant. It is unknown if this species is still viable at this site (Morefield, 2004). This uncommon species is a small (3/8 inch to 2 3/4 inches), glandular-hairy annual in the pink family relegated to sand dunes and sandy flats in sagebrush scrub. Soils within the project area have been mapped as Greenbrae gravelly sandy loam and Tarlock gravelly coarse sandy loam (SCS, 1979). Thus, there are potentially sandy microsites within the project area that may provide suitable habitat for this species.

3.2.8 Water Quality

Surface Water

The project area is located within State of Nevada Hydrographic Basin No. 104, Eagle Valley. The major perennial drainage in the project vicinity is the Carson River which is located approximately 3 miles to the southeast.

Surface flow in the project area is generally southeast toward the floor of Eagle Valley. The south slope of the Virginia Range, where the project is located, is cut by intermittent/ephemeral drainages. These drainages only carry surface flows during major precipitation events or seasonal snow melt, with flows diminishing downslope on the alluvial apron due to infiltration and evaporation. There are some springs within the general project vicinity however there are no recorded springs or seeps within the project area boundaries.

Ground Water

Well log records maintained by the Nevada Division of Water Resources (NDWR) indicate that no water wells are located within the proposed project area (NDWR, 2004). NDWR records show that three water wells are located in Section 29, Township 16N, Range 20E, MDB&M, northwest and up gradient of the project area. No ground water has been encountered to date by the present operation.

3.2.9 Wetlands/Riparian

No wetlands or riparian zones occur within the project area. A spring fed riparian zone does however occur on private land immediately south of the current pit within an east-west trending, ephemeral drainage.

3.2.10 Geology

The Proposed Action is situated on the southern slope of the Virginia Range which consists of Triassic and Jurassic (138 to 240 million-year-old) metasedimentary and metavolcanic rocks that have been intruded and metamorphosed by Cretaceous (63 to 138 million-year-old) granodiorite. The rock unit that would be targeted under the Proposed Action is a medium to coarse-grained granodiorite. The unit ranges from competent to decomposed granite (DG), all of which can be effectively used as construction material. Schist and gneiss on the south margin of the existing Goni Pit have also been used as construction fill, a lower grade construction material than the granodiorite.

No unpatented mining claims exist on the 28.2 acres of public lands associated with the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action would not limit the potential for development of locatable or leasable minerals on these public lands, because the subject lands are withdrawn from the operation of the locatable mining laws and closed to mineral exploration and leasing as outlined in the Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan (2001).

3.2.11 Land Use

The existing Goni pit is located at 6100 Goni Road. Currently the pit comprises 16.4 acres of a 40 acre parcel, owned by Golden Sierra Investments. The proposed pit expansion project would occur adjacent to the existing operation to the west and north, and would include approximately 12.9 acres of an adjacent 40 acre parcel, owned by Golden Sierra Investments, to the west of the existing pit.

The lands proposed for expansion to the north of the private parcels are BLM lands managed by the Carson City Field Office. Both surface and mineral estates on public lands would be affected by this action. Additionally, two overhead power line rights-of-way held by Sierra Pacific Power Co., Nev-011031 (75-feet-wide) and N-4815 (100-feet-wide), are located within the vicinity of the Proposed Action. The proposed expansion onto the BLM lands would include 28.2 acres currently used for recreational purposes by area residents. Landownership is identified on Figure 3.

The lands surrounding the proposed project site are comprised of BLM and private lands. Current land use on the private lands consists of mining activities, and residential and commercial development. BLM land surrounding the proposed project site is designated by the City of Carson as open space and is primarily used for recreational activities. The City of Carson is currently evaluating the loss of open space that would result from the Proposed Action.

3.2.12 Noise

Potential noise sensitive land-use activities that occur in proximity to the proposed project include:

- Residential developments
- Commercial developments

The project area is located in a semi rural area where ambient noise levels would be expected to be low and dominated by noise from mining operations, traffic and wind. The nearest receptors to the project area are the residents located at the north end of Salk Road, approximately 0.25 miles east of the proposed project area.

3.2.13 Recreation

The land adjacent to the proposed project area contains vehicle roads and trails used by area residents for mountain biking, hiking, and off-highway vehicle use**.**

3.2.14 Socio-Economic

Cinderlite Trucking Corporation currently mines construction aggregate at their pit on Goni Road in Carson City. The 2000 Census identified the population of Carson City as 52,457. The material being mined is primarily a hard, durable granodiorite bedrock intermixed with weathered granodiorite, commonly referred to in northern Nevada as decomposed granite (DG). The material is being utilized in the local construction market as base aggregate, bedding sand, drain rock and rip rap. The deposit has reportedly been in production since the 1960's and was first permitted by the City of Carson in 1979. Cinderlite acquired the pit in 1991.

Cinderlite has been in Carson City since 1991 and the pit currently employs 6 to 10 individuals. The average current production is approximately 250,000 tons per year. Growth in production over the past few years has been between 5% and 10% and is expected to remain around 5% for the duration (20 to 25 years) of the proposed pit expansion. Expanding the existing pit would allow Cinderlite to extend the life of their operation and to mitigate the currently unsightly cut slopes visible to the general public. Total additional material that could be mined under this proposal is approximately 6.7 million cubic yards which equates to approximately 10 million tons. Approximately 5.7 million tons would be mined from BLM managed lands, and 4.3 million tons from private lands.

3.2.15 Soils

The project area, on the south flank of the Virginia Range, is characterized by two soils, Greenbrae and Tarloc gravelly sandy loams. These are described in the Soil Survey of Carson City Area, Nevada (SCS, 1979). Brief descriptions of the two project area soil map units are discussed below.

Greenbrae gravelly sandy loam: The Greenbrae series is a deep, well drained soil developed on alluvial fans of mixed rock with 4-8 percent slope. It has moderately slow permeability, medium surface runoff, and only slight erosion hazard.

Tarloc gravelly coarse sandy loam: The Tarloc series is a moderately deep, well drained soil formed in granitic residuum. Soil depth is generally less than 22 inches. It has moderate permeability, rapid surface runoff and moderate erosion hazard.

As described above, there is variability in the two mapped soils within the study area. Each soil series has specific characteristics that should be considered during project planning and construction.

3.2.16 Traffic

Currently, processed material is hauled in trucks to various construction sites in Carson City and the surrounding communities within approximately a 75 mile radius. The majority of material is hauled in triple trailers that hold approximately 38 tons but sometimes smaller trucks are used as well. Cinderlite estimates that at least 50% of the truck traffic is triple trailers (38 tons/load on 7 axles), approximately 40% is standard end dumps, bottom dumps or doubles (averaging approximately 24.5 tons/load on 5 axles) and 10% is smaller ten wheelers (12.5 tons average on 3 axles). This equates to approximately 8320 truck loads, averaging 30 tons per load, to haul the 250,000 tons of current production during the year (4160 triple trailer loads, 3328 end dump-bottom dump or doubles loads, and 832 ten wheeler loads). Over a six day week this would average for the year approximately 27 truck loads per day. Seasonal variation, weather conditions, individual job needs and broad economic factors also determine truck traffic density from day to day and season to season. During the three construction season summer months of 2003 the following average daily (based on 6 days per week) counts of trucks entering and leaving the pit were tallied:

June, 2003	averaged 44 trucks/day (round-trip)
July, 2003	averaged 41 trucks/day (round-trip)
August, 2003	averaged 39 trucks/day (round-trip)

Truck traffic would gradually increase based on the projected growth of 5% per year. In five years truck traffic would likely average between 30 and 40 truck loads per day and in ten years between 40 and 50 truck loads per day. This is one-way loaded. Actual truck traffic would be double this figure if including a round trip. The Carson City PCDD is currently evaluating the effects of increased truck traffic that would result from the Proposed Action.

3.2.17 Vegetation

The project area is located within the Basin and Range Physiographic Province and harbors the sagebrush vegetation zone (Cronquist et al., 1972). Mountain big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *vaseyana*) and antelope bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*) provide the dominant shrub cover, with desert peach (*Prunus andersonii*), fourwing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*), rubber rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*) and Mormon tea (*Ephedra viridis*) also present. In areas that have experienced fire, Mormon tea is codominant with the sagebrush. Common understory perennial grass species include Sandberg bluegrass (*Poa secunda*), desert needlegrass (*Acnatherum speciosum*) and bottlebrush squirreltail (*Elymus elymoides*). Annual vegetative cover is provided by cheatgrass, tumble mustard, birdsnest buckwheat (*Eriogonum nidularium*), and storks bill. A stand of Nevada buckwheat (*Eriogonum umbellatum* var. *nevadense*) is present on the northeast face of one drainage located to the west of the existing pit.

3.2.18 Visual Resources

The BLM initiated the Visual Resource Management (VRM) process to manage the quality of landscapes on public land, as well as minimizing potential impacts to visual resources resulting from development activities. VRM class designations are determined by assessing the scenic value of the landscape, viewer sensitivity to the scenery and the distance of the viewer to the subject landscape. These management classes identify various permissible levels of landscape alteration, while protecting the overall visual quality of the region. The Management classes are divided into four levels (Classes I, II, III, and IV). Class I is the most restrictive and Class IV is the least restrictive.

The Proposed Action is located within an area designated as VRM Class III. The objective of VRM Class III is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape (BLM, 1986).

The project area topography is depicted on Figures 2 and 3. Visual Contrast Rating Sheets for the four Key Observation Points (KOP) have been prepared for the Proposed Action. KOP #1 is located on the west side of Salk Road near just prior to entering the Cul-de-sac. KOP #2 is located on the southeast corner of Goni Road and Arrowhead Drive. KOP #3 is located in the parking lot behind Fluke Biomedical at 5200 Convair Road. KOP #4 is located on the west side of Edmonds Drive in front of the Nevada Army National Guard facility. Copies of the Visual Contrast Rating Worksheets, a map showing the KOP locations and photos are attached in Appendix C.

Extensive development is present in the foreground of all KOPs and consists of horizontal paved and unpaved roads, vertical, utility lines and poles, and structures. Development is interspersed with areas of undisturbed native vegetation consisting of low growing shrubs. Color throughout all KOPs ranges from the browns and greens of the natural landscape colors, to the primary and secondary colors of the abundant structures associated with adjacent development.

The Proposed Action would be located on the southeast slope of a moderately steep hill, surrounded by steep to moderate terrain to the west, north and east, with development of more level terrain to the south.

3.2.19 Wildlife

Mammal species known or expected to occur within or in the vicinity of the project area include mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*), cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus audubonni*), antelope ground squirrel (*Ammospermophilus leucurus*) wood rat (*Neotoma lepida*) and deer mouse (*Peromuscus maniculatus*).

Game birds known or expected to occur within the project area include chukar (*Alectoris chukar*) and California quail (*Callipepla californica*) (BLM, 2004). Raptor species likely to occur within in the project area include, but are not limited to the golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), and American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*). Also occurring is the common raven (*Corvus corax*) a resident species of the Great Basin.

Reptile species likely to occur within the project area include, but are not limited to the Great Basin rattlesnake (*Crotalus viridis lutosus*), Great Basin gopher snake (*Pituophis melanolucus deserticola*), Great Basin fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis longipes*), Great Basin whiptail (*Cnemidophorus tigris tigris*) collared lizard (*Crotaphytus collaris*) and Northern side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana stansburiana*).

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Chapter 4.0 discusses the environmental effects of the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative and includes any appropriate mitigation measures. Also discussed are the cumulative impacts the proposed project would have on area resources.

4.1 Proposed Action

4.1.1 Air Quality

The Proposed Action would generate fugitive dust during mining activities and the transport of those materials on roadways. Removal of vegetation would make soils vulnerable to wind erosion causing blowing dust. Impacts from these activities would be reduced based on implementation of environmental protection measures as described in Cinderlite's Goni Pit Proposed Mining and Reclamation Plan (MACTEC, 2004), Nevada Division of Environmental Protection air emissions permit and Carson City Health Department regulations for dust control. Air quality would remain within compliance levels during the life of the project.

4.1.2 Cultural Resources

No sites eligible for the National Register of Historic Places were identified during the cultural resource survey performed for the project area. Therefore no direct impacts to cultural resources would be anticipated as a result of the Proposed Action. Implementation of environmental protection measures (Section 2.1.8) would further minimize impacts to cultural resources.

4.1.3 Hazardous Waste

The proposed action would require the handling, use and disposal of the following materials classified as hazardous by the 49 Code of Federal Regulations 172.101: diesel fuel, gasoline, greases, antifreeze, solvents.

All hazardous materials would be shipped to and from the site in accordance with applicable United States Department of Transportation hazardous materials regulations.

All spills, regardless of size would be reported immediately to Cinderlite's Mine Superintendent who would be responsible for spill clean up. Spills of petroleum products and solvents would be recorded and reported to appropriate local, state and federal agencies as required by applicable regulations.

4.1.4 Invasive, Non-native Species and Noxious Weeds

Disturbance of ground during the life of the Proposed Action could facilitate the establishment of invasive, non-native species and noxious weeds. Invasive, non-native species and noxious weeds, if found, would be chemically controlled prior to reseeding the recontoured ground. The spread of noxious weeds would be limited once reclamation activities, which include revegetation, are successful. Revegetation would be accomplished per recommendations of the BLM. Based on the implementation of environmental protection measures described in Section 2.1.9, impacts from the establishment and spread of noxious weeds would be minimal.

4.1.5 Migratory Birds

The proposed project would impact nesting activities of neo-tropical migratory birds if the vegetation clearing activities associated with the project are conducted during the nesting season (May to July). This impact would be mitigated by conducting vegetation clearing activities outside of the nesting season. If vegetation clearing is required during the nesting season, a qualified biologist would survey the area to be cleared. If active nests are located, a protective buffer would be delineated around the nests within which the clearing would be avoided until the young have fledged. A buffer of 100 feet surrounding the nest is recommended for most migratory birds. The collective removal of project area vegetation over the mine life would reduce the amount of available nesting and foraging habitat within the project area. Subsequent reclamation at the cessation of mining would restore that nesting and foraging habitat to the pre-mine condition.

4.1.6 Native American Religious Concerns

Consultation is currently being conducted with the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California.

4.1.7 Special Status Species

Impacts to the BLM Special Status Species sagebrush pygmy leaf would only occur if the species is found within the project area. The preferred survey window to capture appropriate phenology for this plant is April through May when it is in flower and fruit. Given the initial site walkover was conducted in winter 2004, and the diminutive stature of this plant, the results of the site walkover were inconclusive. Prior to implementing the Proposed Action, Cinderlite would complete a plant survey in the appropriate survey window to determine if any special status plant species exist within the project area. The results of the survey would be reported to BLM. BLM would specify the terms of mitigation should a special status plant species be found within the project area. Potential impacts, as a result of pit expansion activities, to special status plant species would include the removal of established plant species and loss of habitat.

4.1.8 Water Quality

<u>Surface Water</u>

There are no surface water resources located in the project area. Standard BMPs would be instituted during expansion activities to avoid the introduction of sediment-laden run-off to nearby springs or into the Carson River. Therefore, there are no surface water impacts associated with the proposed project.

<u>Ground Water</u>

It is not anticipated that pit expansion activities would intercept ground water or impact any recorded wells in the vicinity of the project area. The following mitigation measure would be required of the operator so that the Proposed Action does not impact local ground-water supplies: In the event that ground water is encountered during the course of mining, Cinderlite's Mine Superintendent would immediately notify the appropriate federal, state and local agencies so that any potential impacts resulting from the interruption of that water source could be evaluated and mitigated accordingly.

4.1.9 Wetlands/Riparian

While no wetlands or riparian zones are located within the project area, a riparian zone occurs immediately south of the current pit within an east-west trending, ephemeral drainage. It appears that the

riparian zone is supported by a seep/spring located on a south facing slope within that drainage. The hydrology supporting the spring is unknown. While no direct impacts to the riparian area are anticipated in association with the Proposed Action, the mining out and capture of upslope drainages or upgradient ground-water sources may impact the riparian zone indirectly. Sediment-laden run-off from the mine area could also constitute an indirect impact to that riparian area. As mentioned in sections 2.1.9 and 3.8, no interception of ground water has occurred during the existing mining operations, and is not anticipated to occur as a result of pit expansion activities. As indicated in 4.1.8, standard BMPs would be instituted during expansion activities to avoid the introduction of sediment-laden run-off to nearby springs.

The following mitigation measures would be required to insure that the Proposed Action does not interfere with or prevent achievement of proper functioning condition of the riparian zone identified south of the project area: In the event that ground water is encountered during the course of mining, Cinderlite's Mine Superintendent would immediately notify the appropriate federal, state and local agencies so that any potential impacts resulting from the interruption of that water source could be evaluated and mitigated accordingly. The Proposed Action would avoid mining out or capturing surface drainage that may support the riparian zone identified south of the project area until such time that Cinderlite provides adequate mitigation measures. These mitigation measures would be approved by the BLM to insure that the Proposed Action would not interfere with or prevent achievement of proper functioning condition of riparian-wetland areas, and associated uplands. The later of these mitigation measures would remove approximately nine acres of the project area from mining or surface disturbance activities pending adequate mitigation.

4.1.10 Geology

Under the Proposed Action impacts to geology would include the removal of approximately 10 million tons of primarily hard, durable granodiorite intermixed with weathered granodiorite for the duration of the project (20-25 years). Removal of this material would be in accordance with 43 CFR 3600.

4.1.11 Land Use

The Proposed Action could affect land use and access both directly and indirectly. A direct impact of the Proposed Action would be the loss of open space for recreation and other uses. An indirect impact could include altered recreational access to areas adjacent to the proposed project area. The City of Carson would administer mitigation regarding the open space loss resulting from the Proposed Action. The following mitigation measure would be required to insure that the Proposed Action does not preclude access to public lands adjacent to the project area: If public access is altered by the Proposed Action, Cinderlite would provide other access roads to the public lands adjacent to the project area. The proposed pit expansion would not adversely impact the existing power line rights-of-way in the vicinity of the Proposed Action.

4.1.12 Noise

Current land use designations would provide at least a 0.25 mile buffer zone between the proposed project area and residential development to the south and east. A rock and boulder armored earthen berm existing along the southeast corner of the active operation would further reduce noise emanating from the pit area. Mining with the Proposed Action would progress to the north and west, away from current and future residential development in the area further minimizing operational noise levels perceived by nearby residents. The proposed project would contribute to a minor increase in noise in the project area, primarily due to the increase in truck traffic as projected over the life of the project. Blasting activity as a result of the proposed project could also cause a minor impact from noise. Blasting activities are

expected to occur four to six times per year. Blasting, when required, would be conducted during normal working hours. Impacts from blasting activities would be the same as current operations.

4.1.13 Recreation

Impacts to recreational activities in the area of the proposed project would be minimal. Adjacent nearby public lands are suitable for similar recreation activities. Access into the proposed project area would be restricted; however access to adjoining public lands would not. See mitigation measures for public access specified above in Section 4.1.11 - Land Use.

4.1.14 Socio-Economic

Socio-economic impacts to the economy of Carson City may occur. Extraction operations have existed within the project area for over 35 years. Potential impacts to the market values of properties adjacent to the project area would constitute a pre-existing condition to the Proposed Action. Any potential impacts to the market values of properties resulting from the continuation of an extraction operation in the project area would then persist for the duration of the Proposed Action. Increased income to the community of Carson City would be dependent on the output of the mine. Production is expected to increase approximately 5% per year over the life of the project.

4.1.15 Soils

The natural soils would be disturbed at the project site, however after reclamation is complete the impacts would be negligible. Impacts include removal of vegetation and adjacent soils, which would make the exposed soils more vulnerable to wind and water erosion. Environmental protection measures to reduce impacts would include sprinkling of the exposed soils, minimizing areas of disturbance as much as practical, concurrent reclamation where feasible, and the use of BMPs. These would include berms, silt fences, fiber rolls or sediment traps as needed.

The following mitigation measure would be required to insure appropriate preservation and handling of growth media prior to implementation of the Proposed Action: Cinderlite would be required to submit a Topsoil Salvage and Handling Plan for approval by the BLM that insures an adequate quantity and quality of topsoil is salvaged ahead of extraction operations; topsoil stockpile locations identified in that plan would be located outside of natural drainage courses.

4.4.16 Traffic

Impacts to traffic would be low to moderate and coincide with the expected 5% increase in materials processed each year. The majority of the material would be hauled away in triple trailers that hold approximately 38 tons. Smaller trucks would occasionally be used. Currently there are 20 to 30 trucks leaving the pit daily. Truck traffic is expected to increase gradually based on the projected growth of 5% per year. In five years truck traffic would be approximately 30 to 40 trucks per day, and in ten years 40 to 50 trucks per day. The Carson City PCDD would administer mitigation of the increased truck traffic.

4.1.17 Vegetation

Impacts include the removal of approximately 41 acres of vegetation over the life of the project. These impacts would be off set by reclamation including regrading of the pit area after operations have been completed. Seeding of disturbed areas with the BLM approved seed mix would assist in reestablishing a self-sustaining plant community in the reclaimed site.

4.1.18 Visual Resources

The Proposed Action would result in long-term visual impacts at the project site, principally affecting the visual elements of color and texture due to the absence of vegetation and exposure of bare soil on a steep, visible hillside. Throughout the duration of the project the exposed slope would be visible to residents and travelers facing north and west within the range of KOPs 1 through 4. Visual impacts to area residents and travelers would decrease the farther from the Proposed Action the observer is.

Upon completion of the project, the successful recontouring (no steeper than 3:1) and revegatation of exposed soils would substantially reduce the visual impacts. Photos of the expected visual impacts throughout the life of the project are included in Appendix C.

4.1.19 Wildlife

Wildlife impacts would consist of habitat loss, as well as disturbance and temporary displacement during project activities. The duration of project activities is expected to be 20 to 25 years. No restriction of wildlife movements in the project area would occur since the installation of fences or other movement restrictive features would not occur. Physical injury to less mobile species such as reptiles may occur as a result of proposed project activities. Should any wildlife mortalities occur, as a consequence of the Proposed Action, BLM and NDOW would be notified immediately. Reclamation and re-vegetation of disturbed sites would mitigate wildlife habitat loss. Impacts to wildlife would be minimal given the small area of disturbance.

4.2 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would result in no disturbance to BLM managed public lands therefore no impacts would occur on public lands. The positive socio-economic impacts from implementation of the Proposed Action would not occur under the No Action Alternative. Construction aggregate needs in the local community would be derived from another, potentially more distant source, resulting in overall greater transport distance from source to point of use. In which case transport costs for construction aggregates for both private construction projects and public works would increase accordingly.

If the public lands are not included in a future mining plan, the pit would be regraded and vegetated where possible in compliance with the SUP when mining ceases. BMPs would be employed to stabilize or reclaim the pit and associated cut face. Stabilization of the existing steep, south-facing cut would range from leaving the cut stand, to scaling it down or backfilling it to some extent. Fencing or berming would be incorporated into the final reclamation to protect the safety of the public. However, a steep south-facing, unvegetated cut would likely remain as a visual impact.

4.3 Cumulative Impacts

The Cumulative Effects Study Area (CESA) for the Cinderlite Goni Pit Expansion Project is defined as the approximate 5 square miles surrounding the project area. Figure 3 illustrates the CESA. This area includes both BLM administered public lands and private lands within the vicinity of the project site. The CESA is comprised of a portion of the southwest end of the Virginia Range and includes portions of Sections 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 27 28, 29, 32, 33, and 34, Township 16 North, Range 20 East, MDB&M; and a portion of Section 4 Township 15 North, Range 20 East MDB&M.

As defined in 40 CFR 1508.7 (regulations for implementing NEPA) a cumulative impact is an impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor, but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

Past and present actions in the study area include mining at three existing pits; construction, upgrade and maintenance of primary and secondary roadways; livestock grazing; quarrying for aggregate and construction materials; construction and maintenance of electric transmission lines, an underground fiberoptic cables and utility corridors; dispersed recreation; commercial construction and operations; and residential development including roads and houses.

Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions (RFFAs) within the CESA would include continued mining of the existing quarries located upslope of the proposed Cinderlite's Goni pit, increased residential and commercial development on private lands, continued livestock grazing, improvements to primary and secondary roads, and expansion or installation of new utility corridors.

All resource values for the Proposed Action have been evaluated for cumulative impacts. It has been determined that cumulative impacts would be minimal as a result of the Proposed Action or the No Action Alternative.

5.0 CONSULTAION AND CORDINATION

5.1 List of Preparers

Bureau of Land Management

Desna Young, Environmental Coordination
Terry Knight, Recreation and Visual Resource Management
Jim Schroeder, Water Resources, Water Rights, Wetlands/Riparian, Floodplains
Walt Devaurs, Wildlife, Treatened and Endangered Animal Species, Migratory Birds
Dean Tonenna, Threatened and Endangered Plant Species
Peggy Waski, Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns
Ken Nelson, Lands and Realty
Terri Knutson, Air Quality, Traffic, Noise
Jim DeLaureal, Vegetation, Invasive and Nonnative Species, Soils
Tom Crawford, Socioeconomic
Dan Erbes, Minerals
Terry Neumann, Hazardous Waste

MACTEC Engineering and Consulting

William Reich, CF, EA Review
Dennis Bryan P.E., Visual Resources & EA Review
Jackee Picciani, Vegetation and Wetlands/Riparian
Nancy Bish, Wildlife, Special Status Species
Vickie Clay, Soils, Geology and Cultural Resources

Robinson Engineering

Nathan Robison, Visual Representations

5.2 Person, Groups or Agencies Consulted

Carson City Planning and Community Development Department
Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
Nevada Natural Heritage Program
United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Office

A copy of the Cinderlite, Goni Pit Expansion Project Environmental Assessment was sent to the following:

Federal Government
State Government
Local Governments
Native American Tribes
Interested Public

6.0 REFERENCES

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BLM 1988. BLM NEPA Handbook H1790-1. Bureau of Land Management, Carson City Field Office, Carson City Nevada.

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Cronquist, A., A.H. Holmgren, N.H. Holmgren, and J.L. Reveal. 1972. Intermountain Flora: Vascular Plants of the Intermountain West, U.S.A. Volume One. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY. 270 pp.

MACTEC 2003. Letter report (June 11, 2003) on file with Mactec Engineering and Consulting, Inc., Carson City, Nevada.

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WRCC-B 2004. Western Regional Climate Center. Carson City, Nevada. Period of record temperature and precipitation data available on the internet at http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/cgi-bin.

FIGURES

APPENDIX A

NEVADA'S NOXIOUS WEED LIST

Noxious Weed List

Common Name	Scientific Name	Weed Symbol
African Rue	*Peganum harmala*	*AR*
Austrian fieldcress	*Rorippa austriaca*	*AF*
Austrian peaweed	*Sphaerophysa salsula / Swainsona salsula*	*AP*
Black henbane	*Hyoscyamus niger*	*BH*
Camelthorn	*Alhagi camelorum*	*CT*
Canada Thistle	*Cirsium arvense*	*CAT*
Carolina Horse-nettle	*Solanum carolinense*	*CHN*
Common crupina	*Crupina vulgaris*	*CC*
Dalmation Toadflax	*Linaria dalmatica*	*DTF*
Diffuse Knapweed	*Centaurea diffusa*	*DFK*
Dyer's woad	*Isatis tinctoria*	*DW*
Eurasian water-milfoil	*Myriophyllum spicatum*	*EWM*
Giant Salvinia	Salvinia molesta	
Goats rue	*Galega officinalis*	*GR*
Green Fountain grass	*Pennisetum setaceum*	
Hoary cress	*Cardaria draba*	*HC*
Houndstongue	*Cynoglossum officinale*	*HT*
Hydrilla	*Hydrilla verticillata*	*HYD*
Iberian Starthistle	*Centaurea iberica*	*IST*
Klamath weed	*Hypericum perforatum*	*KW*
Leafy spurge	*Euphorbia esula*	*LS*
Malta Starthistle	*Centaurea melitensis*	
Mayweed chamomile	*Anthemis cotula*	*MC*
Mediterranean sage	*Salvia aethiopis*	*MS*
Medusahead	*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*	*MH*
Musk Thistle	*Carduus nutans*	*MKT*
Poison Hemlock	*Conium maculatum*	*PNH*
Puncture vine	*Tribulus terrestris*	*PV*
Purple loosestrife	*Lythrum salicaria, L.virgatum and their cultivars*	*PL*
Purple Starthistle	*Centaurea calcitrapa*	*PST*
Rush skeletonweed	*Chondrilla juncea*	*RS*
Russian Knapweed	*Acroptilon repens*	*RSK*
Saltcedar (tamarisk)	*Tamarix ramosissima*	*TA*
Scotch Thistle	*Onopordum acanthium*	*SCT*
Sorghum species, perennial, Including, but not limited to:		*SOR*

(a) Johnson grass; (b) Sorghum alum; and (c) Perennial sweet sudan

Sow Thistle	*Sonchus arvensis*	*SWT*
Spotted Knapweed	*Centaurea masculosa*	*SPK*
Squarrose Knapweed	*Centaurea virgata Lam. Var. squarrose*	*SQK*
Sulfur cinquefoil	*Potentilla recta*	*SC*
Syrian Bean Caper	*Zygophyllum fabago*	
Tall Whitetop	*Lepidium latifolium*	*TWT*
Water Hemlock	*Cicuta maculata*	*WRH*
White Horse-nettle	*Solanum elaeagnifolium*	*WHN*
Yellow Starthistle	*Centaurea solstiltialis*	*YST*
Yellow Toadflax	*Linaria vulgaris*	*YTF*

[Up] [Weed Plan] [Noxious Weed List] [Weed Mapping] [Weed Law]
[Activities and Events] [County Weed Contacts] [Nevada Weed Free Hay]
[WFH Producers] [Links]

APPENDIX B

LETTERS FROM:

NEVADA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Nevada Natural Heritage Program

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
1550 East College Parkway, Suite 137 * Carson City, Nevada 89706-7921
voice: (775) 687-4245 fax: (775) 687-1288 web: www.heritage/nv.gov/

29 July 2003

David J. Scarpato
Converse Consultants
4840 Mill St, Suite 5
Reno, NV 89502

RE: Data request received 28 July 2003

Dear Mr. Scarpato:

We are pleased to provide the information you requested on endangered, threatened, candidate, and/or sensitive plant and animal taxa recorded within or near the Cinderlite project area. We searched our database and maps for the following, a two mile radius around:

Township 16N Range 20E Sections 28, and 29

The enclosed printout lists the taxa recorded within the given area. Please be aware that habitat may also be available for the sagebrush pygmyleaf, *Loeflingia squarrosa* ssp. *artemisiarum*, a Bureau of Land Management Special Status Species, and the Townsend's big-eared bat, *Corynorhinus townsendii*, a Nevada Bureau of Land Management Sensitive Species. We do not have complete data on various raptors that may also occur in the area; for more information contact Ralph Phenix, Nevada Division of Wildlife at (775) 688-1565. Note that all cacti, yuccas, and Christmas trees are protected by Nevada state law (NRS 527.060-.120), including taxa not tracked by this office.

Please note that our data are dependent on the research and observations of many individuals and organizations, and in most cases are not the result of comprehensive or site-specific field surveys. Natural Heritage reports should never be regarded as final statements on the taxa or areas being considered, nor should they be substituted for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments.

Thank you for checking with our program. Please contact us for additional information or further assistance.

Sincerely,

Eric S. Miskow
Biologist III/Data Manager

Sensitive Taxa Recorded Near the Cinderlite Project Area

Compiled by the Nevada Natural Heritage Program for Converse Consultants

29 July 2003

Scientific name	Common name	Usfws	Blm	Usfs	State	Srank	Townrange	Section	Lat	Long	Prec	Last observed
Plants												
Mimulus ovatus	Steamboat monkeyflower					S1S2	015N020E	05	39.197222	119.753056	S	2003-05-21
Mollusks												
Anodonta californiensis	California floater	xC2	N	C		S1	016N020E	17;18	39.245000	119.769444	S	1990

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Usfws) Categories for Listing under the Endangered Species Act:

- x C2 — Former Category 2 Candidate, now species of concern

Bureau of Land Management (Blm) Species Classification:

- N — Nevada Special Status Species - designated Sensitive by State Office

United States Forest Service (Usfs) Species Classification:

- C — Region 5 sensitive species, not yet known from Inyo NF or LTBMU

Precision (Prec) of Mapped Occurrence:

Precision, or radius of uncertainty around latitude/longitude coordinates:

- S — Seconds: within a three-second radius
- M — Minutes: within a one-minute radius, approximately 2 km or 1.5 miles
- G — General: within about 8 km or 5 miles, or to map quadrangle or place name

Nevada Natural Heritage Program Global (Grank) and State (Srank) Ranks for Threats and/or Vulnerability:

- G — Global rank indicator, based on worldwide distribution at the species level
- T — Global trinomial rank indicator, based on worldwide distribution at the infraspecific level
- S — State rank indicator, based on distribution within Nevada at the lowest taxonomic level
  - 1 — Critically imperiled and especially vulnerable to extinction or extirpation due to extreme rarity, imminent threats, or other factors
  - 2 — Imperiled due to rarity or other demonstrable factors
  - 3 — Vulnerable to decline because rare and local throughout its range, or with very restricted range
  - 4 — Long-term concern, though now apparently secure; usually rare in parts of its range, especially at its periphery
  - 5 — Demonstrably secure, widespread, and abundant
    - A — Accidental within Nevada
    - B — Breeding status within Nevada (excludes resident taxa)
    - H — Historical; could be rediscovered
    - N — Non-breeding status within Nevada (excludes resident taxa)
    - Q — Taxonomic status uncertain
    - U — Unrankable
    - Z — Enduring occurrences cannot be defined (usually given to migrant or accidental birds)
    - ? — Assigned rank uncertain

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office
1340 Financial Boulevard, Suite 234
Reno, Nevada 89502-7147
(775) 861-6300 ~ Fax: (775) 861-6301

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

August 6, 2003
File Nos. 1-5-03-SP-252
1-5-03-SP-258

Mr. David Scarpato
Converse Consultants
4840 Mill Street, Suite 5
Reno, Nevada 89502

Dear Mr. Scarpato:

Subject: Species List Request for Proposed Mining Exploration Activities, Carson City and Pershing Counties, Nevada

In response to your letter received on July 30, 2003, and a telephone conversation on August 1, 2003, we have enclosed two lists of threatened species and species of concern that may occur in the proposed project areas (Enclosure A). The project includes three different sites; one just north of Carson City in Carson City County and two near Rye Patch Reservoir in Pershing County. We have included two lists, one for each of the counties. These lists fulfill the requirement of the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to provide information on listed species pursuant to section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, for projects that are authorized, funded, or carried out by a Federal agency.

For your consideration, Enclosure A contains a list of other species of concern to the Service which may occur in the project areas. The Service has used information from State and Federal agencies and private sources to assess the conservation needs and status of these species. Further biological research and field study are needed to resolve their conservation status. By considering these species and exploring management alternatives early in the planning process, it may be possible to provide long-term conservation benefits for these species and avoid future conflicts that could otherwise develop. We recommend that you contact the Nevada Natural Heritage Program [1550 East College Parkway, Suite 137, Carson City, Nevada 89710, (775) 687-4245] and the appropriate regional office of the Nevada Department of Wildlife, as well as other local, State, andFederal agencies for distribution data and information on the conservation needs of these and other species of concern.

Obscure scorpion plant (*Phacelia inconspicua*), which may occur in the vicinity of the Pershing County sites, is listed as critically endangered by the State of Nevada under Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 527.260-.300. For this species, no member of its kind may be removed or destroyed at any time by any means except under special permit issued by the State Forester (NRS 527.270). Requests for permits should be directed to the State Forester, Nevada Division of Forestry at 2525 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada 89701, (775) 684-2500. It should be noted that many of the plant species on the State's critically endangered list are not federally listed by the Service because of the protection afforded to them under the State's regulations. Consideration of this species during project planning and early coordination with the State is important to assist with species conservation efforts and to prevent the need for Federal listing actions in the future.

We recommend land clearing (or other surface disturbance) associated with any projects be timed to avoid potential destruction of active bird nests or young of birds that breed in the area. Such destruction may be in violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (15U.S.C. 701-718h). Under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, active nests (nests with eggs or young) of migratory birds may not be harmed, nor may migratory birds be killed. Therefore, we recommend land clearing be conducted outside the avian breeding season. If this is not feasible, we recommend a qualified biologist survey the area prior to land clearing. If active nests are located, or if other evidence of nesting (mated pairs, territorial defense, carrying nesting material, transporting food) is observed, a protective buffer (the size depending on the requirements of the species) should be delineated and the entire area avoided to prevent destruction or disturbance to nests until they are no longer active.

Please reference File Nos. 1-5-03-SP-252 and 1-5-03-SP-258 in future correspondence concerning these species lists. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me or Jody Fraser at (775) 861-6300.

Sincerely,

for Robert D. Williams
Field Supervisor

Enclosure

ENCLOSURE A1

Threatened Species and Species of Concern
That May Occur in the Areas of Proposed Mining Exploration,
Carson City County, Nevada

File No. 1-5-03-SP-252; August 6, 2003

Threatened Species

Bird	
Bald eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus* (3)

Species of Concern

Mammals	
Pygmy rabbit	*Brachylagus idahoensis*
Townsend's big-eared bat	*Corynorhinus townsendii*
Spotted bat	*Euderma maculatum*
Small-footed myotis	*Myotis ciliolabrum*
Long-eared myotis	*Myotis evotis*
Fringed myotis	*Myotis thysanodes*
Long-legged myotis	*Myotis volans*
Yuma myotis	*Myotis yumanensis*
Birds	
Western burrowing owl	*Athene cunicularia hypugaea*
Sage grouse	*Centrocercus urophasianus*
Black tern	*Chlidonias niger*
American peregrine falcon	*Falco peregrinus anatum*
Least bittern	*Ixobrychus exilis hesperis*
White-faced ibis	*Plegadis chihi*
Invertebrates	
Carson Valley wood nymph	*Cercyonis pegala carsonensis*
Carson Valley silverspot	*Speyeria nokomis carsonensis*

APPENDIX C

VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEETS AND KEY OBSERVATION POINTS

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

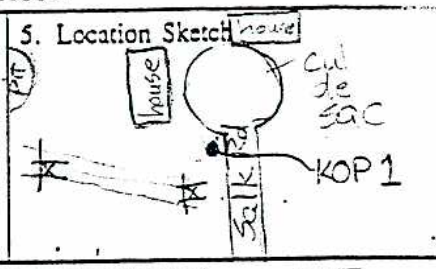
Date: 3/1/04
District: Carson City FO
Resource Area:
Activity (program):

SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Name: Cinderlite Goni Pit
2. Key Observation Point: KOP 1
3. VRM Class: III

4. Location
Township: 16N
Range: 20E
Section: 28

5. Location Sketch



SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION – now

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	-foreground - flat to rolling -mid - angular pit dominates -background - rolling to rugged	simple to complex and random	bold, irregular and linear (fence, house powerline, road)
LINE	horizontal to diagonal, pit edge dominates	abrupt edges & lines created by existing road	horizontal, parallel and vertical
COLOR	brown, light brown	light gray green, yellow, dark green	dark brown, gray, orange, light gray, white
TEXTURE	smooth to coarse	medium, dense, even	sparse, uneven, random

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION – after

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	smooth angular form of existing pit	simple vegetation covers slope of pit	bold, irregular (road & structures removed)
LINE	smoothed existing lines of existing approach	softens abrupt lines & edges	fewer linear elements
COLOR	brown, light brown	light gray green, yellow, dark green	dark brown, gray, orange, light gray, white
TEXTURE	smooth coarse, uneven & random texture in pit	→	→

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING ☐ SHORT TERM ☒ LONG TERM

1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST

ELEMENTS	FEATURES: LAND/WATER BODY (1) Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	VEGETATION (2) Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	STRUCTURES (3) Strong	Moderate	Weak	None
Form		X				X					X	
Line		X				X					X	
Color		X				X					X	
Texture		X				X					X	

2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? ☒ Yes ☐ No (Explain on reverse side) VRM Class

3. Additional mitigating measures recommended ☐ Yes ☒ No (Explain on reverse side).

Evaluator's Names: Dennis Bryan, Vickie Clay, Nancy Bish
Date: 3/1/04

KOP 1

SECTION D. (Continued)

Comments from item 2.

The view is bifurcated by the existing Cinderlite Gomi Pit. This angular disturbance will be transformed into a more natural, smoother, less contrasting area upon completion.

The contrast between the current mining disturbance will improve once mining & reclamation activities occur.

If the proposed action does not take place the Cinderlite Gomi Pit will remain in sharp contrast to the adjacent public lands.

Additional Mitigating Measures (See item 3)

No additional mitigation measures required from those described in the mining and reclamation plan. Mining the Gomi Pit will allow a 3:1 (horizontal to vertical) finished slope which will blend better with existing natural topography, will eliminate the steep & angular mined slopes currently present, and will allow planned reseeding to revegetate at the cessation of operations.

☆U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1985—461-988/23094

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

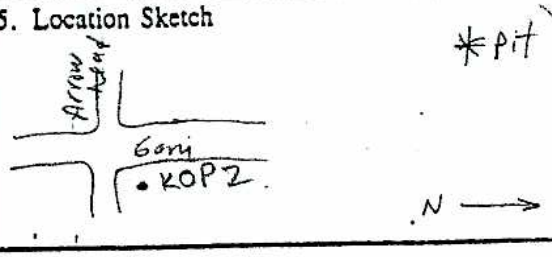
Date: 3/1/04
District: Carson City FO
Resource Area:
Activity (program):

SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Name: Cinderlite Goni Pit
2. Key Observation Point: KOP2
3. VRM Class: III

4. Location
Township: 15N
Range: 20E
Section: 4

5. Location Sketch



SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	flat to rolling	complex and random	bold, irregular & abundant
LINE	horizontal to diagonal	abrupt lines created by rds, pit & structures	horizontal, parallel, vertical
COLOR	brown to light brown	light gray-green, yellow, dk green	black to white and every color in between
TEXTURE	smooth to moderate	medium, dense & random/uneven	uneven random & abundant

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	flat to rolling smooth form of pit	complex & random	Same as B-3
LINE	horizontal to diagonal smooth lines of existing pit	abrupt lines created by roads & structures (no pit)	horizontal, parallel, vertical
COLOR	brown to light brown	light gray-green, yellow dk green	Same as B-3 w/pit structure removed
TEXTURE	horizontal to diagonal smooth edges of pit	→	Same as B3 w/pit structures removed

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING ☐ SHORT TERM ☑ LONG TERM

1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST

ELEMENTS	LAND/WATER BODY (1) Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	VEGETATION (2) Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	STRUCTURES (3) Strong	Moderate	Weak	None
Form			X				X					X
Line			X				X					X
Color			X				X					X
Texture			X				X					X

2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? ☑ Yes ☐ No (Explain on reverse side)

3. Additional mitigating measures recommended ☐ Yes ☑ No (Explain on reverse side)

Evaluator's Names: Nancy Boyd, Dennis Bryan, Vickie Clay
Date: 3/1/04

SECTION D. (Continued)

Comments from item 2.

The remaining visible slope will be revegetated at a 3:1 ratio. At this distance there may be a slight contrast in color w/surrounding vegetation. There will be no visible evidence that the slope was mined.

Additional Mitigating Measures (See item 3)

No additional mitigations measures other than those in mining & reclamation plan.

☆U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1983—461-938/33094

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

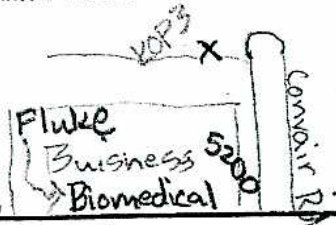
Date 3/1/04
District Carson City FO
Resource Area
Activity (program)

SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Name: Cinderlite Gani Pit
2. Key Observation Point: KOP 3
3. VRM Class: III

4. Location
Township 16N
Range 20E
Section 33

5. Location Sketch



SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	flat to rolling	complex + random	bold, irregular + common
LINE	horizontal to diagonal	abrupt lines created by pit, structures + 2-tracks	horizontal, parallel, vertical, abundant, random
COLOR	brown to light brown	light gray-green, yellow, dark green	gray, yellow, tan, pink
TEXTURE	smooth to moderate	medium, dense + random/uneven, burn scars	uneven, random, + common

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	flat to rolling, smooth edges of pit	complex + random, patchy fire scars	bold, irregular, + common
LINE	horizontal to diagonal, smooth triangular line edges of existing pit	abrupt edge lines of pit will be smoothed by revegetation	horizontal, parallel vertical, abundant, random
COLOR	brown to light brown	light gray-green, yellow, dk. green	gray, yellow, tan, pink
TEXTURE	horizontal to diagonal smooth edges pit	→	→

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING ☐ SHORT TERM ☒ LONG TERM

1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST

ELEMENTS	FEATURES: LAND/WATER BODY (1) Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	VEGETATION (2) Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	STRUCTURES (3) Strong	Moderate	Weak	None
Form			X				X					X
Line			X				X					X
Color			X				X					X
Texture			X				X					X

2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? ☒ Yes ☐ No (Explain on reverse side)

3. Additional mitigating measures recommended ☐ Yes ☒ No (Explain on reverse side).

Evaluator's Names: Dennis Bryan, Vickie Clay, Nancy Bish
Date: 3/1/04

KOP 3

SECTION D. (Continued)

Comments from item 2.

The remaining visible slope will be revegetated at a 3:1 ratio. At this distance there may be a slight contrast in color w/ surrounding vegetation. There will be no visible evidence that the slope was mined.

Additional Mitigating Measures (See item 3)

No additional mitigations measures other than those in mining & reclamation plan.

☆U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1983—451-988/23094

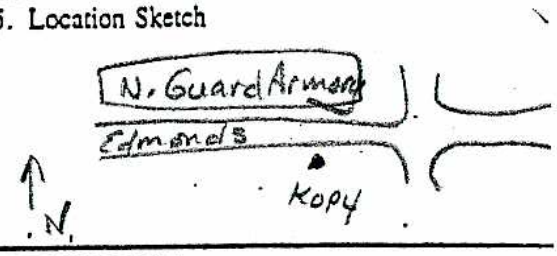
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET

Date: 3/1/04
District: Carson City FO
Resource Area:
Activity (program):

SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Name: Cinderlite Gani Pit
2. Key Observation Point: KOP4
3. VRM Class: III
4. Location
   Township: 15N
   Range: 20E
   Section: 21
5. Location Sketch



SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	flat to rolling	complex and random	bold, irregular & abundant
LINE	horizontal to diagonal	abrupt lines created by roads, pit & structures	horizontal, parallel & vertical
COLOR	brown to light brown	light gray-green, yellow & dark green	black, white and all other colors
TEXTURE	smooth to moderate	medium, dense, random and uneven	uneven random and abundant

SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	flat to rolling smooth form of the pit	complex and random	same as B-3
LINE	horizontal to diagonal smooth lines of existing pit	abrupt lines created by roads & structures w/o pit	horizontal, parallel vertical
COLOR	brown to light brown	light gray-green, yellow dk green	same as B-3 but w/pit removed
TEXTURE	horizontal to diagonal smooth edged pit		Same as B but w/o pit

SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING ☐ SHORT TERM ☐ LONG TERM

I. DEGREE OF CONTRAST

ELEMENTS	FEATURES: LAND/WATER BODY (1) Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	VEGETATION (2) Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	STRUCTURES (3) Strong	Moderate	Weak	None
Form				X			X					X
Line				X			X					X
Color			X				X					X
Texture			X				X					X

2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? ☒ Yes ☐ No (Explain on reverse side)

3. Additional mitigating measures recommended ☐ Yes ☒ No (Explain on reverse side).

Evaluator's Names: Nancy Bish, Dennis Bryan, Vicki Clay
Date: 3/1/04

KOP4

SECTION D. (Continued)

Comments from item 2.

The remaining moderately visible slope will be revegetated at a 3:1 ratio. At this distance there may be a slight contrast in color and surrounding vegetation form. There will be no visible evidence the slope was mined

Additional Mitigating Measures (See item 3)

No additional mitigation measures other than those identified in the mining and reclamation plan.

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