

# *BLM News*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
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## **BETZE PROJECT FINAL EIS AVAILABLE**

The Bureau of Land Management Elko Field Office has announced the availability of the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) for dewatering at Barrick Goldstrike Mines Inc.'s Betze Project on the Carlin Trend, approximately 25 miles northwest of Carlin, Nevada.

The document evaluates the environmental affects of Barrick's ongoing water management operations based on information collected since the original Betze Project Final EIS and Record of Decision were issued in 1991.

The Final Supplemental EIS contains a comprehensive mitigation plan committed to by Barrick to eliminate or reduce both the predicted direct environmental impacts from Barrick's dewatering operations and the predicted cumulative impacts from Barrick's dewatering operations and other dewatering operations on the Carlin Trend. In addition, the document incorporates the Upper Willow Creek Habitat Enhancement Plan to provide for mitigation in advance of potential environmental impacts from dewatering operations.

The document addresses those concerns raised during the public comment period on the Draft EIS through October 31, 2001. The BLM and Barrick, in conjunction with all interested parties, have proposed additional mitigation measures to address the impacts of dewatering in the Carlin Trend area. These mitigation measures are in addition to measures contained in the 1991 Betze Project EIS.

Copies of the Final EIS are available for review at the BLM Nevada State Office (Reno); BLM Elko Field Office; Elko County, Eureka County, Lander, and White Pine County public libraries; the University of Nevada libraries in Reno and Las Vegas; and the Great Basin College library in Elko. A limited number of copies are available at the BLM Elko Field Office, 3900 E. Idaho Street, Elko, Nevada, 89801, or you may call Kirk Laird (775) 753-0272 to request a copy. The Final EIS is also available on the BLM Elko Field Office internet site at <http://nv.blm.gov/elko>. The review period for the Final Supplemental EIS closes on March 3, 2003.

Following a 30-day public review period, a Record of Decision will be published. Additional comments received by March 3, 2003 may be considered in the Record of Decision.

For more information or to comment on the Final Supplemental EIS, contact Kirk Laird, EIS Coordinator, at the BLM Elko Field Office or call (775) 753-0272.