

# Natives Impacted by Mining Conference

The BLM  
And  
Cultural Resources Management

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ONE MILLION  
**MINING CLAIMS**

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT • NEVADA

# NEVADA MINERALS INDUSTRY FACT SHEET – 2008

- ▣ Nevada led the United States in the production of gold in 2008.
  - 5.698 million ounces, down from the 2007 production level of 6.037 million ounces.
  - Silver production was 7.96 million ounces in 2008.
- ▣ Nevada's gold mines contributed 77% of the U.S. gold production in 2008.
  - 8% of the total world's gold production

## NEVADA MINERALS INDUSTRY FACT SHEET - 2008

- ▣ Also: aggregates, barite, clays, copper, diatomite, dolomite, gypsum, lime and limestone, lithium compounds, magnesite, mercury, molybdenum, perlite, precious opals, salt, silica sand
- ▣ Approximately \$6.1 billion in mineral commodities (not counting oil and geothermal) were produced in Nevada.

## NEVADA MINERALS INDUSTRY FACT SHEET – 2008

- ▣ An average of 12,198 Nevadans were directly employed by the mineral industry
  - Average salary of \$77,037
  - An estimated 48,000 jobs are involved in supplying goods and services to the industry
- ▣ 17 geothermal electric generating plants produced 1.38 million megawatt hours of electricity in 2008.
  - Enough power to supply 80,000 typical homes

# Nevada's First Miners

- ▣ Native Americans before Euro-Americans
- ▣ Stone for tools
  - Tosawihi
  - Obsidian sources
- ▣ Other stones and minerals
  - Salt in southern Nevada
  - Turquoise in southern and central Nevada
  - Magnesite for a white slip on pottery, southern Nevada

# BLM, Tribes and Laws

- ▣ Federal Land Policy and Management Act
  - Guiding principles are “multiple use” and “sustained yield”
  - Inventory (or identification) is key to planning
  - Consult with tribes
- ▣ National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

# BLM, Tribes and Laws

- ▣ National Historic Preservation Act
  - Section 106: before authorization, take into account effects on properties eligible for National Register of Historic Places
  - Consult with tribes
    - ▣ Identify properties of “cultural and religious importance” which may be NRHP-eligible
    - ▣ Special tribal expertise in assessing eligibility
  - Take tribal concerns into account in decision

# BLM, Tribes and Laws

- ▣ Archaeological Resources Protection Act
  - Issuance of an ARPA permit
  - Would the location, nature, scale and timing of archaeological activities affect cultural or religious observances?

# BLM, Tribes and Laws

- ▣ Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
  - Consult regarding intentional excavations
  - Inadvertent discovery--protect discovered remains
  - For excavated remains, determine affiliation before returning to a tribe

# BLM, Tribes and Laws

- ▣ American Indian Religious Freedom Act
  - Freedom to exercise traditional religious practices
  - Identify BLM practices which might pose conflicts
  - Seek alternatives

# BLM, Tribes and Laws

- ▣ Executive Order 13007 – Indian Sacred Sites
  - Accommodate access and use
  - Avoid damaging physical integrity
  - Seek alternatives to resolve potential conflicts

# Consultation

- (a) identify appropriate tribal governing bodies and individuals;
- (b) ask their views regarding land use proposals or BLM actions that might affect traditional tribal activities, practices, or beliefs relating to particular locations on public lands;
- (c) treat tribal information as a necessary factor in defining the range of acceptable public-land management options; and
- (d) create a permanent record to show how tribal information was obtained and used in the BLM's decision making process

# Consultation

- ▣ Government-to-government
  - BLM Manager has a direct dialogue with tribal government representative about proposed BLM action
  - BLM staff may assist with information gathering
- ▣ BLM's consultation efforts must be reasonable and good faith
- ▣ Confidentiality
  - Archaeological resource and historic property locations protected
  - No blanket FOIA protection otherwise