GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEVADA NEWSLETTER

Geological Society of Nevada, 2175 Raggio Parkway, Room 107, Reno, NV 89512 (775) 323-3500 - Hours Monday -- Friday 8-3 Website: www.gsnv.org • E-mail: gsn@gsnv.org

January 2012, Vol. 28, No. 1

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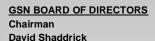
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Friday

Published monthly except June and July

CALENDAR OF GSN EVENTS

The G.S.N. Office will be closed January 5-12, 2012!

Jan. 11, 2012 WINNEMUCCA CHAPTER (Every 2nd Wednesday of the month) Wednesday The monthly meeting will be held at the Martin Hotel, 94 West Railroad St. Drinks

and Appetizers @ 6:30 PM, Talk @ 7:00 PM. SPEAKER: Mark Jones, Newmont Mining Corp. Title: TBA. Sponsor for the evening is MAJOR DRILLING. For more info. contact Erin Gray @ 775-635-6420.

ELKO CHAPTER (Every 3rd Thursday of the month) Jan. 19, 2012 Thursday

The monthly meeting will be held at the Western Folk Life Center, 501 Railroad St. Refreshments at 6:00 PM, Talk at 7:00 PM. Speaker To Be Announced. For more information contact Jared Townsend at jtownsend@barrick.com or Doug Eck, at deck@barrick.com.

Jan.20, 2012 GSN MEMBERSHIP MEETING (Every 3rd Friday of the month)

The monthly meeting will be held at the Reno Elks Lodge, 597 Kumle Lane, Reno. Drinks at 6:00 PM, Dinner at 7:00 PM, Talk at 8:00 PM. Our Speaker is Greg Hall, Golden Phoenix International Pty Ltd, Title: "Carlin Deposits; a Prodigal Son of the Gold Deposit Family" (see abstract on page 3). Sponsor for the evening will be ENVIROTECH DRILLING LLC. Dinner reservations must be made by NOON Thursday, Jan. 19th. Contact Laura Ruud at (775) 323-3500 or e-mail gsn@gsnv.org for reservations.

SOUTHERN NEVADA CHAPTER (Every Last Thursday of the month) Jan.26, 2012 Thursday

The monthly meeting will be held at the Lilly Fong Geoscience building at UNLV. Room 105. Social hour begins at 6:45 pm with the speaker starting at roughly 7:15 pm. Speaker is Jim O'Donnell, BC Geophysics. Topic: Geophysical seismic lines in SW Las Vegas. For more information contact R. Paul Bowen, 702-247-7765.



G.S.N. JANUARY 2012 MEETING SPONSOR

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FROM THE PRESIDENT William Howald, G.S.N. President 2011-2012

HAPPY NEW YEAR GSN Members:

It's January and that means we all hope to start the make positive comments so we can make it better. year with a blank slate or sandstone or granite! During The next step is to link the map to an online store with the warm months, we collect field observations and fill the white bags with samples. With the short days and long nights, this is the time of year when we are compiling, analyzing, and making plans and budgets for the coming field season. Most of the time, this rigorous analysis confirms our ideas and sets us down the path for continued work; however, sometimes, the data show us a brand new direction, idea, or opportunity. In 2012, will you be looking for continuation or opportunity?

At the GSN, we are looking for new opportunities to all, title is everything, and a new idea on your ground better serve the Nevada geologic community. The is a good thing. Along the same lines, Greg Hall, flynew membership and renewal process is becoming ing in from Australia, will be giving his take on the more automated which will allow GSN members to structural architecture, fluid dynamics and deposit lojoin or renew online from anywhere in the world. It cation of Carlin-type gold deposits during the January expands our reach and brings the possibility of a meeting. Over Greg's career, he has successfully global GSN community. Already, over 100 people combined multi-disciplinary and multi-company aphave joined or renewed using the website and Pay proaches to finding ore deposits, and he is making Pal system. So the next time you are working over- some critical insights that may contribute to future disseas, turn your foreign colleagues on to the great coveries in Nevada. publications and opportunities the GSN affords its membership.

Speaking of membership, the total membership at the produce giant gold ore deposits. Companies and indiend of December is 1,034. We fell short of our goal of 1,300 but have topped the 2010-2011 membership by Nevada geology, searching and buying value-adding almost 200. I'm sure there will be more members publications, and seeing the quality and extent of the joining this month, but hurry if you want to be in the geologic knowledge available for Nevada does benefit GSN directory.

Another milestone that is ready for membership use is the interactive publications map. Once online, the map will assist the user to find pertinent publications A mile high, a mile deep based on an interactive, geographic map-based search. The map is a work-in-progress, so feel free to

the ultimate goal of being able to select, pay, and download publications and information from anywhere there is internet access anywhere on the planet.

Sometime it's hard to see the forest through the trees, and its good to get another set of eyes to look at the problem. In December, Mr. Rob McEwen's presentation on the Gold Corp Challenge shows us that it's not only the data that is valuable but the ideas generated from those data. Claim holders in districts should attempt to collaborate to make new discoveries - after

One of the best attributes that Nevada has shown the mining world over the years, is its profound ability to viduals having the ability to access the latest views on all of us. So go ahead - find opportunity in Nevada and do something new and daring in 2012 - visit the GSN website!



Thanks to RUEN DRILLING & MINE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATES For Hosting the December Christmas Meeting!

GSN January 20, 2012 Membership Meeting

Reservations Are Required - Please Cancel if You Are Unable to Attend

GSN CAN NO LONGER GUARANTEE DINNER SEATING WITHOUT ADVANCE RESERVATIONS. Please call 775-323-3500, Fax 775-323-3599 or e-mail gsn@gsnv.org by **NOON on Thursday, January 19, 2012.** Social Hour: 6:00 PM – Dinner: 7:00 PM – Speaker: 8:00 PM **\$17.00 per person**

> Location: Elks Lodge, 597 Kumle Lane, Reno, NV Directions: across (W) from the Reno-Sparks Convention Center (S. Virginia Street, behind the Les Schwab Tire Center)

Prepaid dinner reservations will only be accepted for the current monthly meeting. Cancellations must be received two days before the meeting in order for your money to be refunded.

"Carlin Deposits; a prodigal son of the Gold Deposit Family"

Greg Hall, Director

Golden Phoenix International Pty Ltd

Abstract

Gold deposit formation can be described in terms of the processes that lead to ore deposit formation. These processes cross all scales and large periods of time. These processes are described by category as

GEODYNAMICS

ARCHITECTURE

FLUID SOURCES

FLUID DRIVERS

DEPOSITION MECHANISMS

Carlin gold deposits display very similar processes to processes in other gold deposits and this talk will describe and illustrate these processes as well as highlight some technologies that can assist the exploration for such deposits.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY: GREG HALL

Greg Hall is a Director of Golden Phoenix International Pty Ltd, a geological consulting company. Greg was Chief Geologist for the Placer Dome Group from 2000 to 2006. He managed Placer Dome's exploration activity in China from 1993 to 2001. Before joining Placer Dome in 1988, he managed exploration in Western Australia for CSR Limited. He made significant contributions to the discovery of Rio Tinto's Yandi iron ore mine in the Pilbara region of Western Australia and to Barrick's Granny Smith gold mine in Western Australia, including Keringal and Sunrise satellite gold mines.

He was educated at the University of New South Wales and graduated with a Bachelor's of Applied Science Degree (First Class Honours) in 1973.

FACES OF GSN Bob Felder

Kinetic Gold Corp. and 1991-1992 GSN Executive Committee

Byrd Glacier, Transantarctic Mtns., 1987



I consider myself quite fortunate for the opportunities, successes and people that have come into my life since I entered the world of geology over 35 years ago. I had no idea of the adventure that this career choice would provide for me - it has been quite an exciting ride thus far. I have seen geology and mineral deposits in far reaching places like Antarctica, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and Canada, and I have had the very good fortune to have been around a few discoveries, which provided me with a great deal of "career-building" experience and has left me with a solid background and unique perspective which I utilize every day. I have been in Nevada for the past 25 years, and have enjoyed my involvement in GSN, which has included being Membership Chair, technical reviewer, session chair and committee chair for the Symposia, attendee of many GSN field trips and a regular at the Reno Friday night meetings. The GSN is truly a unique organization that I am proud to be a part of.

I arrived upon this planet on the shores of Lake Erie near Cleveland, Ohio. Growing up in the rust belt didn't do much to steer me towards geology; however as I grew up and had occasion to travel to the western US, I developed a love for the outdoors, and my interest in science and geology followed. I attended Ohio State University and during my freshman year, took my first geology class and was immediately hooked. After a summer of backpacking in Alaska, I declared my major during sophomore year and never looked back. I completed Bachelors and Masters degrees at OSU and received a very good education; however my interest in mineral deposits developed relatively late in my education and the connections to the mining industry from Columbus, Ohio were basically non-existent. I resisted the career path to the oil patch, and in 1980, headed west to find work in mineral exploration. My first job as a geologist was in Denver with Anaconda Copper Co., who, after being acquired by Atlantic Richfield (Arco) were diversifying their business and branching out into other commodities. I worked in the Industrial Minerals Group on a diamond exploration program in North America, and although this was great experience, I was eager to get involved in gold exploration. This desire led me from Denver to Reno, where I went to work for Duval Corporation in the Summer of 1983. This was my first exposure to Nevada geology and gold exploration and other than a small detour back east in 1984 -1986, I have been here ever since. After a short time working in Nevada for Pegasus, I joined Santa Fe Pacific Gold in 1987. This was during a very exciting chapter at Santa Fe that included much exploration success and

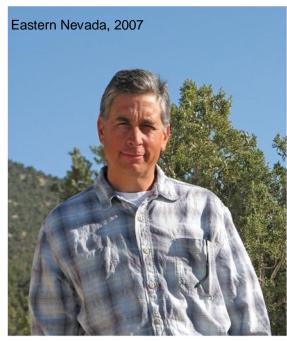
Rabbit Creek Truck Fire, Winnemucca, NV 1987

substantial opportunity. I began working on the Rabbit Creek (now Twin Creeks) development drilling program, and I remember arriving as the newest member of the growing geologic team to three core rigs and a mountain of core. I learned a great deal from the team at Rabbit Creek, and it was very exciting to see this world class gold deposit unfold in front of our eyes. Following Rabbit Creek, I took on the company's exploration projects in the Battle Mountain district. For seven years, I was entrenched in Battle Mountain geol-

L to R: Radu Conelea, "Bubba", John Young, Dean Peltonen, Bob Felder



ogy (and culture) and this effort resulted in the discovery of two oxide gold deposits at Valmy and Trenton Canyon, which were put into production by Newmont following their acquisition of Santa Fe in 1997. After Santa Fe, I joined a small private company named Pittston Nevada Gold Co., who came to Nevada in 1993 with a philosophy of exploration that involved selecting target areas off the trends and using BLEG sampling as a primary prospecting tool. This resulted in the early identification of the now well known "Pequop Gold District" with the discovery of the Acrobat deposit in 1995, Section 34 and Mountaintop in 1999, and Long Canyon in 2000. Despite their success in the Pequops, Pittston shut down in June, 2001 and, with low gold prices the prospects for work in exploration were pretty grim. After a lot of soul searching I decided to get my securities license and became a financial advisor. This kept me busy for a few years, but it was with little hesitation that I returned to the industry when things began picking up again. I consulted for Placer Dome in 2004 in the southern Cortez Trend and in 2005 joined NewWest Gold Corp. as their Vice President, Exploration. NewWest was acquired by Fronteer in 2007, and I became the U.S. Exploration Manager, a position I held un-



til 2009. During my time with NewWest and Fronteer, I enjoyed a firsthand view of the advancement of Long Canyon from being an interesting prospect with a handful of good gold intercepts to a significant gold resource. After Fronteer, I continued working in the junior sector as a consultant to multiple clients and in 2011 founded a new junior exploration company, Kinetic Gold Corp., with partner and fellow GSN member Greg Hill.

So after 35 years, there are still new adventures and opportunities to be had and its still as exciting as the first gold intercept! I look forward to many more years exploring in Nevada and enjoying the many benefits of GSN.

Bob Felder

Thank you to our December donors!

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Thank you to all of these donors who provided items for the Foundation's Christmas Raffle & Silent Auction!! Special Thanks to Mark Coolbaugh, Inspectorate America, Newmont Mining Corp. and Round Mountain Gold Corporation for providing gold specimens for our Live Auction!

Agnico-Eagle USA LTD, Gregg Loptien **Arizona Geological Society** Allegra Print and Imaging, Debra Allec **Allied Nevada Gold, Dave Flint ALS Minerals, Mary Stollenwork Tom Anderson Arrow Creek Golf Course Boart-Longyear Kel Buchanan Ruth Buffa Steve Carroll & Rachel Dolbier CGS. Janette Steele** Joan Colgan COLOG **Mark Coolbaugh Enviroscientists, Opal Adams & Rich DeLong Dave Fitch Greg French** Geotemps, Inc., Lance Taylor **Global Hydrologic Services, Mark Stock Lew Gustafson** Holabird Americana, Fred Holabird Jack Hursh **Inspectorate, Brian Park-Li Tom Irwin & DD LaPointe JBR Environmental Consultants Inc.**, Lucynda Doherty **DC Johnson Chiropractic Ctr.** J. Michael Johnson Kappes, Cassiday, & Associates, Dan Kappes Legend, Inc., Mark Lewis Mackay School of Earth Sciences & Engineering, Peter Vikre Liz Ball **Marilyn Miller** Mill Street Rocks, Jim & Lydia Lee Miners Lunchbox, Scott Werschky **Ralph Mulhollen** Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology Nevada Division of Minerals, Alan Coyner **Nevada Mining Association**

Nevada Natural Stone Supply, Inc., **April Barber & Tom Callicrate Newmont Gold Corporation** Northern Nevada Gold **Peg O'Malley Graphics** Mine Development Associates, Cami & Neil Prenn **Jon & Beth Price** Ken Raabe **Richard Reid** Neville Rhoden **Greg Rhodes Robinson Nevada Mining Company Round Mountain Gold Corp.**, **Terry Jennings Dan & Maureen Rovig Leslie Rumph Debbie Russell** Laura & Eric Ruud **Fred Saunders Schlumberger Water Services Debbie Schneider Roger Steininger** Stone Age Quarry, Mike Owen Stone Quilt Design, Susan Judy Eric & Debra Struhsacker **Mack Taylor TCR Glass Works** Joe Tingley **Michael Tippett** U.S. Gold **Rick Walker Carol & Clancy Wendt** Western Lithium, Dennis Bryan **Rick Zehner**





GSN FOUNDATION NEWS

The annual Christmas raffle and auction was a great success for the Foundation with \$13,783 contributed. This was the second highest total since the event was initiated in 2000. The funds represent about half of our FY2011-2012 operating budget. Thank you to all who participated, either by contributing items for the raffle and auction, or through the purchase of those treasures. Most importantly, many thanks are due D.D. and Rachel for organizing the event and making it such a success.

During the live auction if was joked that the money was for the "children". To that point the Foundation has completed the awards for this year's K-12 field trip grants. We awarded a total of \$11,137 to 40 applicants in schools throughout Nevada, which will reach about 2,600 students. Any field trip oriented toward earth sciences, in the broadest terms, qualifies. The goal is to interest students in geology, and related fields, at a young age.





Another of the Foundation's program is to support the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology mapping program. Our funds are commonly used to finish the publication of specific maps, such as the recently released Map 174 on the Caetano Caldera.

Finally, the Foundation decided to make the scholarship program for university students attending geology field camp a permanent part of our outreach. Applications for the 2012 scholarships can be found on the GSN website. Awards will be made this spring. Roger C. Steininger



Chair, GSN Foundation

NORTHERN NEVADA SECTION OF SME

Monday January 9, 2012 Social Hour 6 PM, Dinner 6:45 PM and Talk at 7:30 PM Circus - Circus Hotel and Resort Mandalay Room in Convention Center 500 N Sierra Street, Reno, NV Members \$22/person and Non-Members \$25/person Free for UNR Students <u>Please RSVP by Noon, Friday, January 5, 2012</u> Kaitlin Sweet 775-225-6147 or KCSweet@enviroincus.com



Mr. Barry Olson, Senior Vice Pres., Project Development Building the Peñasquito Mine, Zacatecas, Mexico

WINNEMUCCA CHAPTER JANUARY 2012 MEETING SPONSOR



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The State of Nevada Board of Examiners approved 61 refunds totaling \$522,960 of additional mining claim fees on December 13, 2011

BRIAN SAEDOVAL thrite-str	STATE OF NEVADA	JEFF MORERNEAMP
	DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION	
	209 E. Musser Street, Room 200	
	Carson City, Novada 89701-4298	
	(775) 684-0222 Fax (775) 684-0260	
	http://www.budget.state.nv.us/	
Date:	Nevember 15, 2011	
'lo'	Janet Murphy, Budget Analyst V	
	Department of Administration	
From:	Cathy Gregg, Budget Analyst IV (100)	
	Badget and Planning Division	
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OBITUARIES

J. Bruce Harlan



J. Bruce Harlan, 57, of Castle Rock, CO. Beloved husband of Karin Harlan; father of Philip, Samuel, and Alexander Harlan; son of John and Norma Jean Harlan; brother of John, Scot, and Dan Harlan, and Laurie Pennington. A Celebration of Bruce's Life was held Saturday, August 6, 2011. The family requests that contributions in memory of J. Bruce Harlan be made to Conquer Cancer Foundation, 2318 Mill Road, Suite 800, Alexandria, VA 22314, or to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, 1311 Mamaroneck Ave., Suite 310, White Plains, NY 10605.

New at Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology:

Caetano caldera map

Map 174: Geologic map of the Caetano caldera, Lander and Eureka counties, Nevada, by Joseph P. Colgan, Christopher D. Henry, and David A. John, 2011, 35X27-inch color plate and 10 pages of text, rolled or folded, \$20.00; or free on the Web at

http://www.nbmg.unr.edu/sales/pbsdtls.php?sku=M174

A 1:75,000-scale, color geologic map of the 34 Ma Caetano caldera, Lander and Eureka counties, Nevada with descriptions of 41 geologic units and one cross section. Accompanying text includes full unit descriptions and references. More than 100 percent extension beginning in the middle Miocene tilted the caldera into a set of approximately 40-degree east-dipping fault blocks that provide exceptional exposures of the entire caldera to its floor, including Paleozoic sedimentary rocks and pre-caldera volcanic rocks in the floor, intracaldera Caetano Tuff up to 4 km thick, ash-flow tuff feeder dikes, caldera collapse breccias, post-collapse resurgent intrusions, and the caldera structural margin and topographic wall.

Erionite in the news

Jon Price reported recent interest in the health hazards of erionite. Due to that interest, Bulletin 79 was just posted free on our website:

http://www.nbmg.unr.edu/dox/b79/index.html http://www.nbmg.unr.edu/sales/pbsdtls.php?sku=B%2079 http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/blog

Activity Update

Mike Brady, November 2011 Nevada

www.activityupdate.com

NEVADA

International Millennium Mining Corp. announced that recent drill results at the Nivloc Project include 282.7-316.0 meters @ 78 gpt Ag, 0.37 gpt Au (11NL-26); 132.1-137.6 meters @ 84 gpt Ag, 0.46 gpt Au (11NL-27) and 256.8-279.1 meters @ 157.8 gpt Ag, 1.33 gpt Au (11NL-28). (resource = 564,000 tonnes @ 1.0 gpt Au, 153.5 gpt Ag inferred) *Press Release:* November 15

Rye Patch Gold Corp. announced that it acquired an option to earn a 60% interest in the Patty Property from Barrick Gold Corp., U.S. Gold Corp. and Chapleau Resources Ltd. for \$5,000,000 in exploration expenditures over 5 years. *Press Release:* November 16

U.S. Gold Corp. announced that based on recent drill results at the Gold Bar Project, resources aggregate 19,500,000 tonnes @ 0.95 gpt Au measured+indicated and 7,000,000 tonnes @ 0.94 gpt Au inferred. (was 33,500,000 tonnes @ 0.89 gpt Au measured+indicated and 1,300,000 tonnes @ 0.55 gpt Au inferred) *Press Release:* November 28

Scorpio Gold Corp.(70%) announced that recent drill results at the Mineral Ridge/Brodie Project include 77.74-82.32 meters @ 6.23 gpt Au (MR11-149); 7.62-10.67 meters @ 0.52 gpt Au (MR11-150); 65.55-68.6 meters @ 2.41 gpt Au (MR11-151) and 135.67-147.87 meters @ 0.53 gpt Au (MR11-152). (resource @ Mineral Ridge = 4,230,000 tonnes @ 1.47 gpt Au indicated) *Press Release:* November 15

Premier Gold Mines Ltd. announced that recent drill results at the Saddle Project include 592.8-607.6 meters @ 19.36 gpt Au (SA08A); 466.3-484.3 meters @ 3.39 gpt Au (SA011A); 599.9-611.5 meters @ 3.77 gpt Au (SA014A) and 513.9-603.0 meters @ 2.34 gpt Au (SA022). *Press Release*: November 8

Nevada Copper Corp. announced that recent drill results at the Pumpkin Hollow Project include 576.2-586.7 meters @ 0.85% Cu, 0.195 gpt Au (NC11-18); 259.1-284.7 meters @ 0.40% Cu, 0.024 gpt Au (NC11-19) and 288.0-531.8 meters @ 0.54% Cu, 0.070 gpt Au (NC11-20). (resource = 155,900,000 tonnes @ 0.59% Cu, 0.10 gpt Au measured+indicated) *Press Release:* November 15

Miranda Gold Corp. announced that recent drill results at the Red Hill Project include 135.7-140.3 meters @ 0.85 gpt Au (RHM11-012). *Press Release*: November 4

Midway Gold Corp. announced that recent drill results at the Gold Rock Project include 67.1-115.8 meters @ 0.42 gpt Au (GR11-08); 138.7-163.1 meters @ 0.48 gpt Au (GR11-09); 51.8-96.0 meters @ 0.97 gpt Au (GR11-11) and 144.8-167.6 meters @ 2.34 gpt Au (GR11-16). *Press Release*: November 14

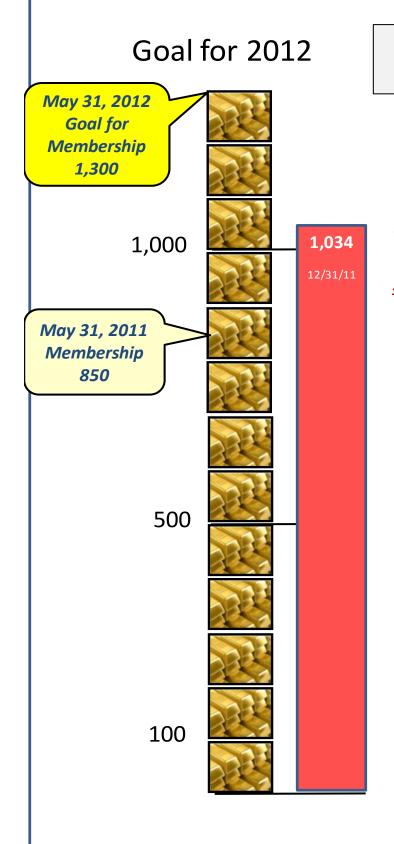
Klondex Mines Ltd. announced that recent drill results at the Fire Creek Project include 398.0-423.9 meters @ 4.16 gpt Au (FC11-01); 388.9-410.2 meters @ 10.17 gpt Au (FC11-04); 266.9-269.9 meters @ 13.28 gpt Au (FC11-07RC) and 327.9-330.9 meters @ 25.36 gpt Au (FC11-12). (resource = 5,176,000 tonnes @ 9.9 gpt Au indicated) *Press Release*: November 10

Gryphon Gold Corp. announced that it acquired an option to earn a 100% interest in the Castle Peak Property from Kinross Gold Corp. for \$1,000,000 in exploration expenditures over 4 years. (resource = 14,700,000 tonnes @ 0.44 gpt Au inferred) *Press Release:* November 15

Evolving Gold Corp. announced that recent drill results at the Carlin/Arch Project include 1,167.1-1,199.7 meters @ 1.10 gpt Au (CAR-011); 713.2-719.3 meters @ 2.42 gpt Au (CAR-012) and 1,270.1-1,330.5 meters @ 1.28 gpt Au (CAR-013). *Press Release:* November 21

Atna Resources Ltd. announced that recent drill results at the Reward Project include 51.8-59.4 meters @ 0.43 gpt Au (RW11-030); 0-45.7 meters @ 0.89 gpt Au (RW11-031); 0-117.3 meters @ 1.80 gpt Au (RW11-032) and 91.4-102.1 meters @ 0.33 gpt Au (RW11-033). (reserve = 7,007,000 tonnes @ 0.78 gpt Au proven+probable) *Press Release*: November 15

Thanks to BOART LONGYEAR for sponsoring BOTH the Elko Chapter's and the Winnemucca Chapter's Christmas Meetings in December!!



Geological Society of Nevada Membership Drive

Membership Dues were due by December 31, 2011 for members to be in the Membership Directory! You can renew at anytime though!

<u>\$50 per year for regular members</u> <u>Remind your co-workers</u> <u>to renew or join in 2012!</u>

- Monthly Dinners & Speakers
- Networking/contacts
- Newsletters: 10 per year
- Fall and Spring Field Trips



BLM and FS Preparation of EIS for Sage Grouse

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Forest Service (FS) published a notice in the Federal Register announcing intent to prepare environmental impact statements (EIS) and supplemental EISs for the greater sage grouse. These documents will be coordinated under two regions: an eastern region including BLM land use plans in Colorado, Wyoming, North and South Dakota and parts of Utah and Montana; and a western region including BLM land use plans in California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon and parts of Utah and Montana. BLM expects to evaluate sage grouse conservation measures in 68 planning areas, and the FS expects to do likewise in nine land and resource management plans (the notice contains a detailed listing for both agencies broken down by state).

The purpose of the pubic scoping process is to determine relevant issues relating to the conservation of the greater sage grouse and its habitat that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the process for developing the EISs and supplemental EISs. Preliminary issues identified in the notice include:

greater sage grouse habitat management, fluid minerals, coal mining, hard rock mining, mineral materials, rights of way, renewable energy development, fire, invasive species, grazing and off highway vehicle management and recreation. The notice also includes specifics on 23 planning criteria.

Stakeholders are invited to participate in the scoping process. This may include filing comments or attending scoping meetings (the notice does not list any scoping meetings, but suggests they will be announced at least 15 days in advance). Parties interested in leasing and developing federal coal in the planning area are specifically asked to provide coal resource data for their area of interest and, in particular, the notice requests information on the location, quality and quantity of federal coal with development potential, and on surface resource values related to the 20 coal unsuitability criteria described in 43 C.F.R. part 3461.

Stakeholders who are interested in this issue should have their names added to agency mailing lists by contacting Chuck Otto (cotto@blm.gov) for the eastern region and/or Brian Amme (bamme@blm.gov) for the western region. Comments on issues identified in the Federal Register notice may be submitted in writing to BLM and are due by Feb. 7, 2012; comments should be submitted to <u>sageeast@blm.gov</u> (for the eastern region) and <u>sagewest@blm.gov</u> (for the western region).A copy of the notice is attached for your information and review.Should you have any questions or comments on this issue, please contact me at (202) 463-2643 or via e-mail at <u>bfrisby@nma.org</u>.

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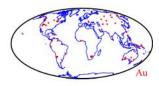
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