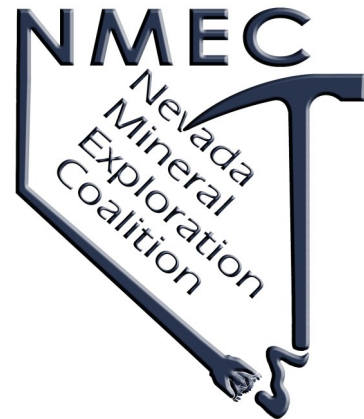


# QUARTERLY EXPLORER

*The Voice of Nevada Exploration*

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEVADA MINERAL EXPLORATION COALITION October 2021 Vol. 2 Issue 4



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**DAVE SHADDRICK**

This has been an interesting quarter with numerous pandemic problems and uncertainties. In-person meetings, virtual meetings, masks, no masks and just about anything in between.

Our 9th annual Great Basin Rendezvous was held in-person and was a great success (report below). Thanks to all who attended and to our generous sponsors, including National Gold Mining Corp., Envirotech Drilling, EM Strategies, Falcon Drilling, Magee Geophysical Services, Drift Exploration, Boart Longyear, and TonaTec Exploration.

A special thank you to all those who sponsored this year's Annual Mineral Exploration Summit (covered later in this newsletter), and of course thank you to our slate of presenters and all of you that attended.

With the 2021 legislative session behind us, I thought we could relax a bit, but the pressures on our industry continue on multiple fronts. These include the ongoing attempts to change the Mining Law into something punitive rather than constructive, ongoing attempts from multiple agencies and non-governmental organizations to restrict access to public lands, and new permitting challenges from both state and federal agencies. The NMEC will continue to provide support to its members as well as the mineral exploration industry in Nevada to the limit of our human and financial capabilities.

Deep Enough!

*Dave Shaddrick*

## SOMETHING TO GNAW ON

Doug Silver always has insightful thoughts. His recent column in the August 2021 Mining Engineering (pages 16-17) is yet another example. The subject is how the United States can secure supplies of critical minerals (specifically those elements). He points out that today's EV use seven times as much copper as the internal combustion vehicles. Should copper be included as a critical mineral? China is the thousand pound gorilla in the room with regard rare earths, and many other important minerals, and they are not our friend and therefore not a secure source of these elements. Doug makes the case that most of the domestic rare earth "deposits" are really geochemical anomalies and will require massive financial support if production is to be achieved. He presents Bingham Canyon's tellurium recovery from tailing as a possible solution. Doug proposes looking at tailing accumulations as a low cost environmentally friendly source for many critical minerals. His final point is "sourcing materials from other countries smacks of environmental imperialism."

## GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES

### *IN CASE YOU MISSED IT*

The fight over the Thacker Pass lithium project continues. The subplot is "I want my lithium-ion batteries, I just don't want to see where the metal comes from." U.S. District Judge Miranda Du ruled against four "conservation" groups that wanted to prevent some trenching for archaeological

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studies. Lithium Nevada Corp. is allowed to proceed with the trenching.

Nevada's Governor issued an Executive Order for NDOW to establish a Nevada Habitat Conservation Framework to provide for habitat, conservation, restoration, rehabilitation and protection in coordination with all other agencies to develop a Sagebrush Habitat Plan (SHP). The plan must be completed and available online by year's end 2023. This will likely add more restrictions on the exploration and development of mineral deposits. More to come.

As an established Wilderness, the management plan may have very little effect on mineral exploration; nevertheless if you have interests in northwest Humboldt County it would be worth your while to offer input into the developing Management Plan. Comments are due by Dec 20, 2021. You can view the entire press release here: <https://www.blm.gov/press-release/humboldt-river-field-office-developing-new-pine-forest-range-wilderness-management>

Other recent BLM press releases of interest to the Nevada mineral exploration community:

**Sept 27, 2021:** BLM Seeks Nominations to Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council <https://www.blm.gov/press-release/blm-seeks-nominations-mojave-southern-great-basin-resource-advisory-council> Resource Advisory Councils consist of citizens from several expertise categories who advise the BLM on land use and land management issues including issues that are important to mineral exploration. Is this you? Apply today!

**Sept 23, 2021:** The Bureau of Land Management seeks public comments for Phase Two of Luning Solar Project <https://www.blm.gov/press-release/bureau-land-management-seeks-public-comments-phase-two-luning-solar-project-0>

**Sept 17, 2021:** Secretary Haaland outlines next steps to rebuild Bureau of Land Management <https://www.blm.gov/press-release/secretary-haaland-outlines-next-steps-rebuild-bureau-land-management> The Grand Junction office will stay as the Western Headquarters, but the Washington DC office will be restored as National Headquarters.

**October 14, 2021:** U.S. Senator Joe Manchin has reportedly promised to block a proposed royalty for minerals extracted on federal land from advancing in the U.S. Senate's version of the hotly debated reconciliation package. <https://www.investing.com/news/stock-market-news/us-senator-manchin-promises-to-block-mining-royalty-plan-2644292>

## NEW EXPLORATION AND MINING DEVELOPMENTS

Musical chairs with asset shuffles continue. Nevada Gold Mines is acquiring the remaining 40% of the South Arturo property and an option on the adjoining Rodeo Creek exploration property from i-80 Gold Corp. in exchange for the Lone Tree and Buffalo Mountain properties and infrastructure.

Kinross Gold is expanding the Round Mountain mine again. Phase W will add an additional five years of mine life and produce and additional 1.5 million ounces of gold.

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## UPCOMING AND PAST EVENTS

It's time to renew!

### NMEC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP AND FUND RAISING DRIVE

Every year we work hard to expand both our membership base and our treasury. As you are all aware, success in the political and regulatory arena is largely a function of numbers, made up of people and money. We have been extremely successful over the years in providing a voice for the exploration industry at the state legislature, with our congressional delegation, and with the myriad of state and federal entities and non-governmental organizations who either support or threaten our existence as an industry.

Please help us to continue to expand this effort by renewing your membership or becoming a new member. If your company is not a member, please encourage the decisionmakers to sign up and renew your own individual membership too. Finally, money is the essential tool for an organization like ours and I encourage you to contribute what you can to help us continue our efforts. The NMEC pays taxes on all monies used for direct lobbying so, depending on your tax situation, your contributions may be tax deductible. Be sure to check with a tax professional. You can sign up online at [www.nvmec.org](http://www.nvmec.org) where you can either pay online with a credit card or download the form and mail with a check to us at:

Nevada Mineral Exploration Coalition  
 PO Box 13842  
 Reno, NV 89507



President Dave Shaddrick kicked off the meeting with the Business Portion of the AMEC including the election of next year's officers.

### 11TH ANNUAL MINERAL EXPLORATION SUMMIT: HELD OCTOBER 12, 2021, AT THE ATLANTIS RESORT CASINO

A special thanks to all of this year's presenters, sponsors, and of course the attendees for this successful event.

For those that registered for the event, we have provided links to our speakers' presentations at <https://nvmec.org/2021-ames>. The page is password-protected, which has been sent via email to all registrants.



Debbie Struhsacker (left) and Laura Granier (right) participate on a panel discussion during the 2021 AMES

Thank you to Erwin Thompson Failers, Nevada Gold Ventures, Boart Longyear, EM Strategies, and Newtech Drilling for sponsoring the 2021 Annual Mineral Exploration Summit

**9TH ANNUAL GREAT BASIN RENDEZVOUS  
SEPTEMBER 10 -12, 2021**

This was our 9<sup>th</sup> annual event and this year it was once again held at the Royal Peacock Opal Mine in the Virgin Valley of northeastern Nevada. Julie Wilson, owner of the opal mine, outdid herself with both the food and entertainment. Friday afternoon was a time to set up camp and socialize before a marvelous meal of chicken and ribs (sponsored by National Gold Mining Corp.). Julie and her gang entertained us with an after dinner “theatrical event” followed by a gathering around the campfire.

Saturday morning started with coffee (thanks Warren) and an excellent breakfast cooked by Catherine Lee and sponsored by

EM Strategies. In the early afternoon Chris Henry guided us on an excellent overview of the Virgin Valley Caldera with several stops to look at rocks. The late afternoons are always a time for socializing before Julie puts on her usual very outstanding dinner. This time it was steak (huge) and twice-baked potatoes sponsored by Envirotech Drilling. Entertainment for the evening started with a patriotic rendition of the National Anthem and finished with an outstanding band provided by Julie. Everyone danced in the



firelight and had a wonderful time.

Sunday morning brought more coffee and a breakfast of various Pasties (actually meat and vegetarian pies) sponsored by Falcon Drilling and organized by Warren and JoAnn (from afar). I believe everyone agreed that the weekend was a blazing success. No smoke, blue skies and comfortable temperatures. What more could anyone want?!



Sincere thanks to the folks who made this happen: Warren Thompson, Catherine Lee and JoAnn Newbury.



## Why Join the NMEC in 2022?

### **Mining Tax Increases**

*Recent legislative sessions have made it clear that the mineral industries of Nevada are, and will continue to be, directly in the crosshairs of both the legislative and executive branches of state government. Recent proposals have included increases on claim fees, increased taxes on mineral proceeds, and proposals to amend the mining law in the Nevada Constitution.*

***Government Legislators and Regulators must be educated** to understand the difference between the high risk business of mineral exploration and income-generating mineral production. The lobbying process to communicate with and inform legislators is costly.*

***This effort requires membership numbers.** To this end, we will continue the category of "Employee of NMEC Company". We encourage management of NMEC corporate members to ask their employees to become members. NMEC acknowledges this is a tough financial year for everybody, and companies may decide to eliminate superfluous spending. If you purchase an explorer or service provider membership, we have provided you with an option to purchase memberships for your employees at the same time using our [membership form](#).*

***Please - do not consider NMEC superfluous.** Join at the level you are comfortable with. Membership provides numbers and minimal financial support but we rely on patronage for the required funds to maintain our current level of activity. NMEC therefore encourages patronage contributions at the highest level you can manage. NMEC will recognize such contributors, except those who wish to remain anonymous, on our website and other printed communications.*

**Editor: Roger C. Steininger**

## Contact Us

To join as a member, to renew your membership, or for more information about the NMEC, please visit us on the web at:

[www.nvmec.org](http://www.nvmec.org)

P.O. Box 13482  
Reno, NV 89507

## About the NMEC

The Nevada Mineral Exploration Coalition (NMEC) is a not-for-profit, nonpartisan coalition of small businesses and individuals engaged in, or in support of, mineral exploration and development activities in the State.

## Our Mission

To Preserve and Promote the Exploration Industry of Nevada