



KINROSS

Bald Mountain

First ever Nevada Sage-grouse Conservation Credit System (CCS) transaction will conserve 10,000 acres of habitat

Carson City, Nevada – November 8, 2017 – The Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Kinross Gold U.S.A., Inc., (“Kinross”) announced the first sage-grouse credit transaction under the Nevada Conservation Credit System (CCS) program. This first credit transaction is expected to protect nearly 10,000 acres of primary sage-grouse habitat in northeast Nevada.

This first sage-grouse transaction sets a precedent and will make the process more efficient for landowners to participate in the CCS in the future.

The innovative CCS program was created by the State of Nevada, in partnership with their subcontractor, Environmental Incentives, LLC, to preserve and enhance sage-grouse habitats by trading conservation credits to offset potential environmental impacts of land use and aims to maintain the multiple-use concept on public land, and to improve habitats on private and public lands.

Kinross’s wholly-owned subsidiary, KG Mining (Bald Mountain) Inc., enrolled in the CCS program to meet its voluntary compensatory mitigation obligations to offset potential sage-grouse effects due to its mining activities at its Bald Mountain gold mine in northeast Nevada. KG Mining (Bald Mountain) Inc. enrolled the company’s privately-owned ranch, Tumbling JR, into the CCS program to help protect nearly 10,000 acres of sage-grouse habitat that supports the species’ entire life cycle.

The project includes limiting new disturbance and infrastructure on the property, prohibiting conversion of the properties from rangeland to cropland, maintaining fencing, and implementing grazing management practices to preserve and conserve sage-grouse habitat. KG Mining (Bald Mountain) Inc. is committed to undertake these conservation actions for the next 30 years.

Governor Brian Sandoval praised Kinross and the project, saying, “This demonstrates that the State Plan works and how good-faith efforts between public entities, private industry and land managers can produce results that are beneficial to the environment and wildlife.”

“We are proud to be the first company to be part of the sage-grouse credit transaction to help protect the habitat of this important species in Nevada,” said Randy Burggraff, President and General Manager of Kinross’ Bald Mountain mine. “The CCS program is an effective strategy to help conserve the sage-grouse by off-setting potential effects to sagebrush habitat through the credit system. In the spirit of responsible mining and sound environmental stewardship, we have committed to a variety of voluntary environmental protection and mitigation measures so there is a net conservation gain to the sage-grouse.”

“This is an excellent example of partnership and stewardship by federal, state and private sector stakeholders to conserve sagebrush habitat,” said Marci Todd, acting Nevada State Director of the federal Bureau of Land Management. “This is about working cooperatively and working smartly. The BLM is proud to be a part of this first-ever transaction under the Nevada Conservation Credit System.

Carolyn Swed, Reno Field Supervisor for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, added, "The Service appreciates the Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Program's (SEP) dedication to greater sage-grouse conservation and congratulates them on the first sale of credits through the Conservation Credit System (CCS). Avoiding and minimizing habitat fragmentation is important for sage-grouse conservation and the CCS can help achieve that goal. We look forward to continuing to work with the SEP on the Conservation Credit System, ensuring it is both ecologically and economically successful into the future.

The CCS is one component of a proactive plan developed by the State of Nevada, in conjunction with various stakeholders, to conserve sage-grouse and their habitats while responsibly maintaining the economic viability of industry and protecting other responsible uses of natural resources.

KG Mining (Bald Mountain) Inc. is expected to continue to participate in the CCS program as mining continues at Bald Mountain and as future credit transactions take place in order to foster the long-term viability of the sage-grouse population and its habitat.

Celebration and Dedication Event

To commemorate this transaction, Kinross and the DCNR will host an event in Carson City, NV, on Thursday, November 9 at 8:30 a.m. in room 1214 of the Nevada State Legislative Building, prior to the start of the scheduled Sagebrush Ecosystem Council meeting.

About the Sagebrush Ecosystem Program

The Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Program is a collaborative, multi-disciplinary program established to protect and enhance the sagebrush landscape. The sagebrush ecosystem, in addition to being home for much of the state's plants and wildlife, is an integral part of Nevada's culture and economy. The ecosystem program is focused on providing solutions and actions to the myriad of threats challenging the condition of the ecosystem and the plants, animals, and people dependent upon the health and resiliency of this landscape.

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About Kinross Gold Corporation

Kinross is a senior gold mining company with mines and projects in the United States, Brazil, Russia, Mauritania, Chile and Ghana. Our focus is on delivering value based on the core principles of operational excellence, balance sheet strength, disciplined growth and responsible mining. Kinross maintains listings on the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX: K) and the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE: KGC).

The **BALD MOUNTAIN MINE** is an open-pit gold mine located in the southern Ruby Mountains of northeastern Nevada, White Pine County. The BMM has been continuously operating since the early-1980s under a few different ownerships and was acquired by Kinross subsidiary, KG Mining (Bald Mountain) Inc., in early 2016 from Barrick Gold Corporation. Extensive concurrent reclamation activities at Bald Mountain earned the Nevada Division of Minerals, Nevada Excellence in Mine Reclamation Committee award in 2017.

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