



## Public Comments During Scoping

We welcome your comments about the Proposed Johnson Lake Historic District Stabilization Project.

Your comments will assist us in identifying issues and developing alternatives for this project during the NEPA process.

Please post your comments online at:

***[www.parkplanning.nps.gov/Johnson Lake](http://www.parkplanning.nps.gov/JohnsonLake)***

Or

Send written comments to:

***Attention: Planning***

***Great Basin National Park***

***100 Great Basin National Park***

***Baker, NV 89311***

Comments should be received no later than:

**December 12, 2013**



**National Park Service  
Great Basin National Park  
100 Great Basin National Park  
Baker, NV 89311**



## PUBLIC SCOPING

**Proposed**

**Johnson Lake Mine Historic  
District Stabilization Project**

**2014**



# Johnson Lake Mine Historic District Stabilization Project

## Background & History:



The Johnson Lake Mine is a historic tungsten mine located on the eastern slope of the South Snake Range in the Snake Creek watershed. The Johnson Lake Mine Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1995. The District covers 205 acres in the central portion of Great Basin National Park, ranging in elevation from 8240—11,760 ft. A Cultural Landscape Inventory was completed in 2009.

Mining operations began at the site in 1908 and continued through 1950. Throughout much of this period the mine remained a small operation. In 1915 tungsten was discovered at the site, leading to the most profitable period over the next 20 years. In 1935 an avalanche destroyed facilities and curtailed operations.

There are four major activity areas located within the historic district. These are the extraction or mining area, the residential area, the beneficiation or milling area, and the transportation corridor that led to the mine. Historic features include adits, prospecting pits, loading platforms, an aerial tramway, machinery, an earthen dam, tent platforms, privy depressions, roads, and six standing log structures. Log structures include a cook-house, mill, residences, and livestock shelter.

## Proposed Action:

The proposed action would perform stabilization and maintenance of the Johnson Lake Mine Historic District to protect it from further deterioration. There are six components to this project, these include 1) structure stabilization, 2) trail maintenance and construction, 3) fuels reduction, 4) site and visitor protection, 5) archeological testing, and 6) education and outreach. This a multi-year project.

### 1) Structure stabilization

Six log cabins in varying stages of deterioration are located within the historic district. Stabilization of the structures may include: replacement in kind of rotted logs, improving water drainage around the structures, applying borates to reduce the decaying process, and excavating fill around the structures.

### 2) Trail maintenance and construction

There are approximately 4.25 miles of trails within the historic district. Trail maintenance will be performed on all of the trails and may include tread work; (removal of plants and rocks and importation of dirt), replacement and installation of water bars, and removal of hazardous trees along trails. Re-routing of trails may be necessary in areas where there is extensive damage to the existing trail.

### 3) Fuels reduction

Vegetation around the six structures consists mostly of an overstory of varying age classes of Engelmann spruce with an understory of grasses and forbs. Engelmann spruce towers over, and in

many instances grows immediately adjacent to the structures. Trees and other vegetation around the structures will be removed to effectively protect the structures in the historic district from wildland fires and potential damage from tree fall.

### 4) Site and visitor protection

Presently, there is limited signage and monitoring to prevent human caused damage to structures and features within the historic district. Low profile signs will be placed near mining features and high use areas to provide information on safety and etiquette for visiting historic sites. Site monitoring will be increased.

### 5) Archeological testing

To accurately interpret and use this information to educate park visitor's on the historic district, archeological testing of up to 45 test units may be conducted.

### 6) Education and outreach

The Johnson Lake Historic District possesses an abundance of information on early 20th century mining operations within Great Basin National Park. This information will be used to educate park visitors at the site, or those taking a virtual tour through social media, and brochures. In addition, park rangers may use information about the site when conducting school and interpretive programs at visitor centers and during campground programs.