



RILEY PASS NEWSLETTER

MAY 2016

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

- PUBLIC MEETING -June 2, 2016, Ludlow, SD @ 7:30 pm
- Riley Pass 2016 Action Memo Signed
- 2015/16 Reclamation Work
- 2016 Reclamation Work
- Future Riley Pass Actions
- Closure Order

This newsletter provides information regarding ongoing reclamation work at the Riley Pass Uranium Mine Response and Restoration Project (herein after called the Site). Riley Pass is in the North Cave Hills portion of the Custer Gallatin National Forest's Sioux Ranger District, approximately 25 miles north of Buffalo, SD. The Site consists of 12 bluffs that contain mine wastes with hazardous substances. Human health and environmental concerns are primarily related to arsenic and gamma radiation from radium 226.

A public meeting is scheduled for June 2, 2016 at 7:30pm at the Ludlow Hall to discuss the ongoing work at the Site.

RILEY PASS URANIUM MINE 2016 ACTION MEMO

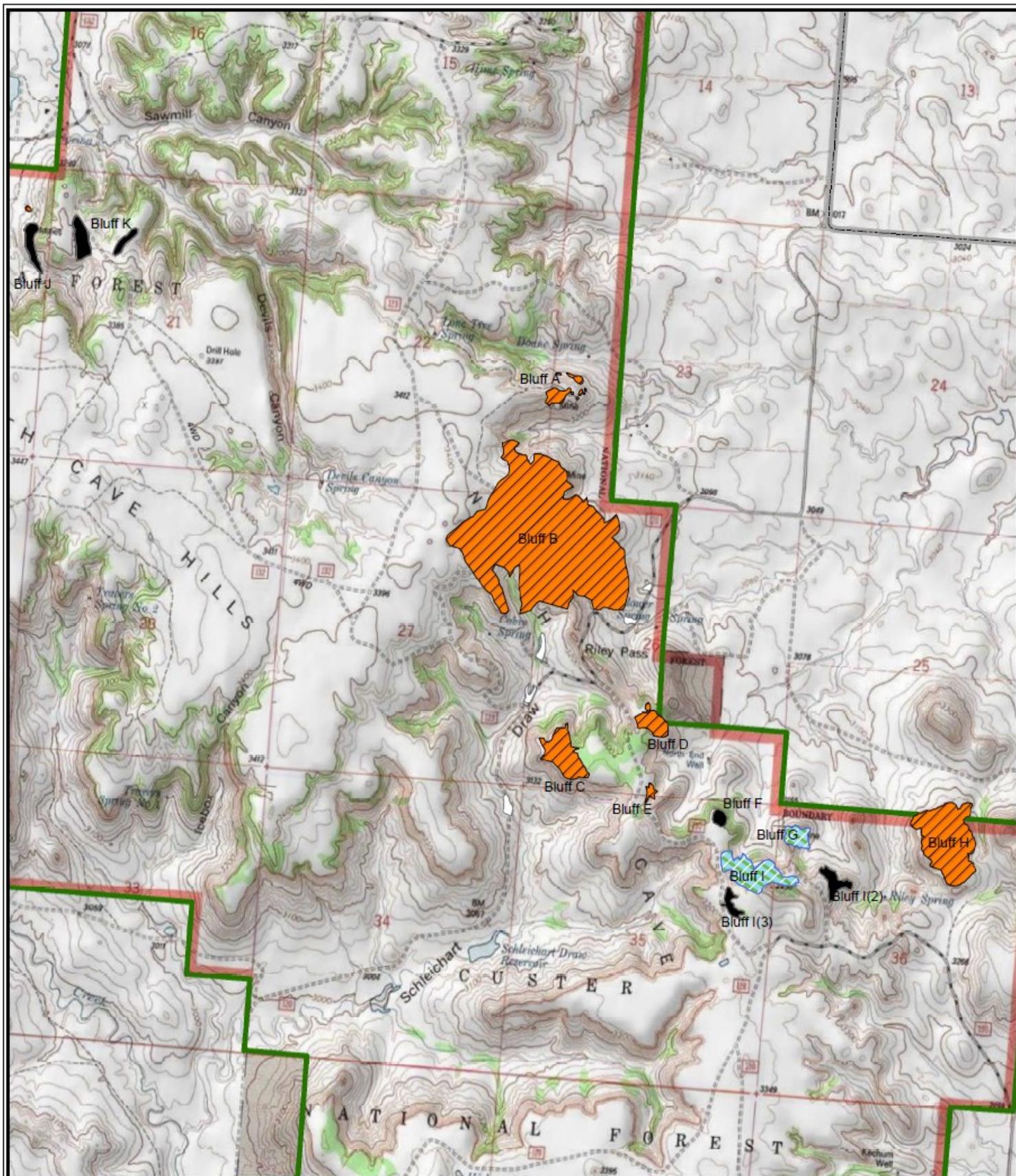
The purpose of the 2016 Action Memorandum is to approve the selected non-time critical removal action (proposed action), as authorized by the Comprehensive, Environmental, Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), to address all mined bluffs and other disturbances, such as exploration push pits. The scope of work is to control and contain the release of and exposures to specific contaminants that may impact human health and the environment. Additional actions may be necessary to address other sources and impacts in the future. The response actions set forth in this Action Memorandum are consistent with the 2006 Final EE/CA. This 2016 Action Memorandum supersedes the 2007 and 2010 Action Memorandums.

The 2015 Waste Characterization Evaluation Report further characterized the waste at the Site and identified the need for additional waste characterization. The 2015 Verification Sampling Plan provides guidance on verifying that cleanup has been completed and whether risk-based cleanup levels have been met. The 2016 Action Memorandum provides specific risk reduction criteria under which the proposed action will be conducted, provides a determination that these criteria are protective of human health and the environment, and explains the rationale for the proposed action.

The proposed action is to isolate the waste and reclaim the Site using natural landform mine reclamation techniques in an effort to restore the pre-mining hydrology, topography and productivity of the land at all study areas. Natural landform reclamation will recreate the various slope aspects and microsites for successful diverse vegetation and wildlife habitat. This approach allows for using on-site materials to reclaim steep slopes in a stable configuration and convey water and sediment discharge naturally in order to produce a self-maintaining natural landform.

RILEY PASS 2015/2016 RECLAMATION WORK

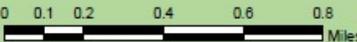
During the 2015 field season, the Forest Service began upgrading the infrastructure at the Site in advance of the major reclamation work. These contracts included maintaining and upgrading several roads and the development of an office site and ancillary facilities. The roads contracts included the maintenance and upgrade of several roads through the area, including blading, surfacing, drainage controls, culverts, gates and cattleguards. The office site work included the installation of an office trailer and construction of a storage building and an outhouse. Work under these contracts continues into the 2016 field season. The engineering design for the reclamation of Bluffs F, G and I was completed. The construction contract for the reclamation of Bluffs F, G and I was bid in January 2016 and work will start in June 2016.



Legend	
	Reclamation Completed
	Reclamation in Progress
	Reclamation Not Started
	Sediment Ponds

**North Cave Hills
Updated Reclamation Map
as of June 2015**







Riley Pass Office Trailer installed at Site in Fall 2015 off of FS Road #3120

RILEY PASS 2016 RECLAMATION WORK

A construction contract has been awarded to North Wind Construction Services LLC of Kellogg, Idaho. The work will consist of the excavation of contaminated waste from Bluffs F, G and I, the placement of excavated wastes into the Bluff I Repository, and the regrading of the repository and spoils material left in place on the sides of the bluffs. The slopes will be regraded to a natural landform configuration and the areas supplemented with compost, fertilized and seeded. Additional road maintenance and upgrades will be conducted throughout the Site.

FUTURE RILEY PASS RESPONSE AND RESTORATION

Work is in progress to hire a dedicated Contracting Officer to issue contracts for work at the Site. Significant work is necessary in advance of the major reclamation work, such as an overall work plan, sampling and analysis plans, site investigation and data collection work for design work. Additionally, community relations work, including public meetings and newsletters and technical group discussions will be part of the project. The next public meeting will be in Ludlow, South Dakota on June 2, 2016 at 7:30pm at the community center.

It is anticipated that it will take 15 to 20 years to complete all of the reclamation work at this Site. The Forest Service will work together with the EPA at bluff mine areas with mixed ownership, (part on National Forest System lands and part on private land), such as Bluff B and H.

ON-SCENE COORDINATOR

Mary Beth Marks is On-Scene-Coordinator (OSC), in compliance with the requirements for the National Contingency Plan for removal actions at the Riley Pass Uranium Site. Ms. Marks has extensive experience with reclamation of both active and inactive mine sites. Ms. Marks has also served as the OSC on various mine cleanup projects and has vast knowledge on these processes. Mary Beth is familiar with the Riley Pass site and was previously the OSC from 2008 to 2011. Feel free to contact Mary Beth Marks (406) 587-6709.

Sioux Ranger District
Custer Gallatin National Forest
USDA Forest Service
P.O. Box 37
Camp Crook, SD 57724

PUBLIC SAFETY CLOSURE ORDER IN EFFECT

Riley Pass mine waste contains hazardous substances including arsenic, molybdenum, thorium, radium and uranium. Due to the human health, safety and environmental concerns related to elevated levels of these substances, the Forest Supervisor has closed the bluffs and some adjacent areas to all public entry through a special order. The special order has been placed on signs in the Riley Pass area and throughout the North Cave Hills. The order and closure maps are posted at the Sioux Ranger District Office and are also available upon request.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Documents, maps, and photos regarding site history, human health, environmental concerns and ongoing reclamation at Riley Pass are available for download from the Custer Gallatin National Forest website at:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/custergallatin/landmanagement/resourcemanagement/?cid=stelprd3833606>

A mailing list is also being maintained for this project. You can stay informed by either checking the website at your convenience, or signing up for our mailing list to receive future editions of the Riley Pass Newsletter in hard copy or electronic format.

For specific requests, additional information, or to be added to the Riley Pass newsletter mailing list, please contact On Scene Coordinator, Mary Beth Marks, at mmarks@fs.fed.us or (406) 587-6709.