

**File Code:** 1950  
**Date:** July 13, 2020

Dear Planning Participant,

We will be considering the enclosed project proposals and conducting environmental analyses on them in the near future.

You are being notified of these proposals because you have expressed interest in projects on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests.

Preliminary assessments have been made that the following projects fall within a category of actions listed in 36 CFR 220.6, thereby excluding them from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Please feel free to offer your comments regarding them (see next page).

Thank you for your continued participation in projects involving the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests.

Sincerely,



CHERYL F. PROBERT  
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures: Project Descriptions and Maps



## Information Regarding Public Comments

Please review the following proposals and submit your site-specific comments, as described below, for inclusion in our analyses for the projects.

Comments should be submitted as an email attachment, in Word (preferred) or PDF format, to: [comments-northern-nezperce@usda.gov](mailto:comments-northern-nezperce@usda.gov).

If you choose to comment on the proposals, please include the following:

- (1) Your name, address, phone number, email address, and organization, if any;
- (2) Title of project; and,
- (3) Specific facts and relevant rationale you feel should be considered.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names, telephone numbers, addresses, and email addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public inspection.

Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request this Agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the Agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality and the options available (see 7 CFR 1.27 for further information).

**Please note that this opportunity for comment is primarily for you to make statements regarding why the project should or should not proceed as described below. If you have questions about any details regarding an individual project, we encourage you to please contact the project proponent, listed with each project on the pages below, to possibly get answers (including requests for more detailed project maps) before submitting your comments.**

If you have any questions regarding comment submission, please contact Jeff Chynoweth, 208-935-4260 (work), 208-935-4275 (FAX); or, mail inquiries to: Supervisor's Office, Nez Perce-Clearwater NFs, 903 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Kamiah, ID, 83536.

**Please submit your comments by August 3, 2020, for full consideration.**

## **Project Proposals**

### **1) Erikson Ridge Exploration Drilling (Red River Ranger District)**

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6(e)(8): *Short-term (1 year or less) mineral, energy, or geophysical investigations and their incidental support activities that may require cross-country travel by vehicles and equipment, construction of less than 1 mile of low standard road, or use and minor repair of existing roads.*

**Legal Coordinates** (Boise Meridian) (See Maps below)

- Township 30 North , Range 8 East, Sections 28, 29, 31, 32, and 33

#### **Background**

The project area is located in upland terrain and has had close to a century if historical mining interest and logging activity. Within the project area, Little Elk Creek, Ericson Creek, and Lightning Fork feed into the municipal water supply of Elk City located south of the project area.

The purpose of this project is to approve Gold Lion Resource’s Plan Of Operations to explore for mineral resources on National Forest System lands in the area of the proposed action. In accordance with 36 CFR 228.5, the Forest Service is required to determine whether to approve the Plan, as proposed, or to require changes or additions to the Plan deemed necessary to minimize adverse environmental effects and to provide for reclamation of surface resources (36 CFR 228.8).

#### **Proposed Action**

The proposal is for a total of 62 drill sites, some near or above Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas. Access to the sites would primarily be on Forest Service Roads (FSR) 283A, 646, and 9864B, with some sites being accessed using existing non-system roads (see maps).

- Brushing would be needed to open and maintain the non-system roads.
- Where necessary, drill pads will be offset from the existing road prism to provide for passage of motorized traffic.
- Travel on FSR and non-system roads would be limited during inclement weather to avoid resource damage.

An estimated 3,300 feet (12 feet wide) of temporary road needs to be constructed for access to some of the drill sites. Temporary roads would result in roughly one (1) acre of surface disturbance.

Each drill site is approximately 30 feet x 50 feet (0.03 ac.), but may be slightly larger or smaller depending on slope and other site conditions. The 4 inch holes would be drilled using, depending upon site access and equipment availability, either a truck/track mounted or skid mounted core drill rig.

- The number of holes drilled in each site would vary, dependent on results of ongoing drilling.
- Holes would be drilled to a maximum depth of 1500 feet, with drilling depths adjusted as targets and the deposit become more defined.
- Only one site would be active at a time but as drilling is nearing completion at a site, the next site could be prepared ahead of time to minimize the amount of time the drill rig sits idle.
- Total surface area of all drill pads/sites would be around 2.2 acres.

A sump or shallow pond, roughly 6 feet wide x 8 feet deep x 15 feet long, would be dug at each drill site to contain drilling fluids and to allow cuttings to settle out.

- No drill additives are anticipated to be used. However, if required, all drilling additives would be biodegradable.

Drill cores would be analyzed offsite by contracted geologists to determine the size and extent of the deposit and thereby adjust the location and target depth of subsequent drill holes.

- The core results may preclude the need for drilling in all of the proposed 62 drill sites.

The project would withdraw water from nearby streams that feed into a municipal water source. A water use permit would be obtained from the Idaho Department of Water Resources before work could start.

- All water withdrawal sites would be reviewed by Forest Service specialists before any water is taken from any stream.

In addition to the water use permit, a Storm Water permit would be obtained from the Environmental Protection Agency.

- Any additional permits that may be required by the state or other services will also be secured before work commences.

Equipment used during operations includes:

- Two core drilling rigs,
- A water truck, pickup trucks,
- A tool/support truck containing fuel and lubricant's,
- ATVs,
- A rubber-tired forklift,
- A singular large diesel generator (power pack), and
- Water pumps.
- Equipment not used in daily operations would be staged offsite, near private property in Elk City township.

The number of personnel associated with the project can fluctuate, but a minimum of eight (8) persons would be needed to operate the two rigs. A geologist would be included in the crew to steer the drill.

- Corporate staff and consultants may visit the operation but are not expected to stay longer than a work day every other week.
- Project personnel intend to stay at Elk City motels but, on occasion, may use dispersed camping sites on the Forest.

Hydrocarbons would be stored in covered secondary containment and a spill kit maintained at refueling sites.

- Spills exceeding one gallon would be reported to the District Ranger and contaminated soils excavated and removed according to applicable regulations.
- No more than fifty gallons of fuel would be stored at the project site.

When work at a drill site is completed, the site would be reclaimed before moving to the next drill site.

- Drill holes would be reclaimed according to the State of Idaho Best Management Practices for filling and plugging drill holes.
- Sumps would be allowed to dewater through percolation and evaporation and then back-filled: Topsoil replaced from stockpiled soil, duff and woody debris scattered over the area if available, and the area seeded and mulched as necessary.
- If earthwork or leveling was required for any drill pad, the disturbed area would be restored to the original contour, the topsoil replaced from newly created stock piles, and the site revegetated.

A reclamation bond would be calculated based on the estimated cost of reclaiming active and recently abandoned sites. A bond sufficient to cover the cost of all anticipated surface disturbance would be submitted by the operator before the Plan of Operation is approved and before work may begin.

The project would cover two operational seasons. Seasonal closure of the project area would occur in late September to late October, before equipment removal resulted in resource and/or road damage.

- Prior to seasonal closure, the operator and any contracted personnel would be required to remove all consumable materials (i.e. gas, oil, etc.), equipment including drilling rigs, and all other operational support items from the project area.
- All temporary roads would be placed in storage in anticipation for the next season's use.

Final reclamation would include ripping and/or scarifying and seeding of constructed features, i.e. drill pads, temporary roads, etc. All temporary roads would be blocked from public access during and after final reclamation.

- The reclamation bond would not be released until required conditions of reclamation had been met.
- Forest Service personnel would survey the project area (sites, etc.) periodically to ensure that reclamation had brought the disturbed areas back to as close to pre-existing conditions as was possible.

All appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Water Quality and Weed Control, and State of Idaho BMPs for Mining will be followed. Standard design criteria and mitigation measures, developed for mining, will be implemented as appropriate. As part of this decision, the claimant is required to:

#### General Requirements

1. Notify District Ranger or minerals administrator at least 48 hours before any work is to begin.
2. Wash all vehicles and equipment used at the site before being brought onto National Forest system lands to prevent the spread of noxious weeds, seeds or propagules.
3. Avoid disturbance of wetlands and stream riparian zones.
4. Avoid working on saturated soils. Exploration activities must cease to avoid sedimentation into intermittent streams if excessive storm water or ground water runoff is occurring.
5. Prevent discharge of water into any live stream or wetland. To avoid erosion and discharge impact to streams, all activities (including drilling, construction of pads, hand-dug sumps, and any overland travel) will be kept at least 164 feet (50 m) from flowing water that is down gradient.

6. Place weed free straw bales or install silt fence in places as identified by a Forest Service representative to minimize sediment migration from stockpiles and disturbed ground.
7. Obtain prior approval from the Forest Service for cutting or removal of trees or other large live vegetation. Downfall may be removed as needed.
8. Set aside cleared slash and green vegetation (e.g., bear grass) during test pit construction. Remove vegetation in clumps, if possible, with the soil mass intact. Store excavated topsoil and subsoil in separate stockpiles to be used during reclamation. Temporarily replant vegetation clumps in the topsoil stockpile.
9. To help alleviate the need for field crew to decide if fish are present in water withdrawal locations, a 1/8" screen will be installed on pump intake hoses even when utilizing a 5-gallon bucket with drilled holes. Water withdrawals will be located on small, high gradient streams as far up creek drainages as feasible to avoid habitat used by fish and sourced from streams under existing permits from the State of Idaho.
10. Collect process water in the existing pit or settling pond(s). Regulate discharge to prevent overtopping the pit/pond, and/or land apply excess water on a site designated by the Forest Service. Application sites will typically be natural sumps or depressions, pits or trap(s) that avoid impacts to wetlands or streams and minimizes impacts to other surface resources. Application rate will be such that overland flow is avoided and a natural infiltration occurs through forest duff.
11. Follow the State of Idaho Best Management Practices (BMPs) for all surface disturbing activities, reclamation, and abandonment. BMPs are outlined in the Best Management Practices for Mining in Idaho (Idaho BMPs) (Idaho Department of Lands, et al. 1992).
12. Report accidents or injuries to the Forest Service within 24 hours.
13. Develop hazardous materials and spill prevention plan and submit it to the District Ranger prior to operations.
14. Store no more than 50 gallons of fuel or oil in the project area. Store all fuel or oil in a covered secondary containment system that limits spills to the environment and is capable of 110% volume of stored products. Fuel must be stored 328 feet (100m) from flowing water. Spills kits must be located at all refueling or fuel transfer locations.
15. Remove all equipment, garbage and trash resulting from the operation from National Forest system lands prior to the end of the regular operating season. Dispose garbage and trash at a State of Idaho approved site.
16. Use and maintain a sanitary facility (e.g., porta-potty or self-contained camper) at the project area while operations are ongoing.
17. Comply with all applicable Federal and State fire laws and regulations and take all reasonable measures to prevent and suppress fires on the area of operations and require employees, contractors and subcontractors to do likewise (36 CFR 228.11).
18. If any previously undiscovered threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species are encountered at any point in time prior to or during the implementation of this project, a Forest Service District Biologist will be consulted and appropriate measures will be enacted.
19. If accidental take occurs from any previously undiscovered threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species, all work must cease and a Forest Service District biologist notified.
20. Human food and garbage will be stored in an enclosed and secure area to avoid conflict with wildlife.

### Wildlife

1. Retain trees with large stick nests and obvious cavities.
2. Retain snags (especially large snags) and coarse woody debris.
3. Fence sump(s) until they are fully reclaimed to deter large and small animals from falling into, and becoming trapped in, the sump(s).

### Cultural Resources

1. If previously undiscovered cultural resources (historic/prehistoric objects, artefacts or sites) are exposed as a result of operations, cease operations until notification is received from a Forest Service archeologist or the Forest Service and the operator has complied with provisions for mitigating unforeseen impacts as required by 36 CFR 228.4(e) and 36 CFR 800.

### Reclamation

1. Restoring subsoil and topsoil to existing natural ground contour.
2. Replanting beargrass clumps or other vegetation in topsoil.
3. Placing locally available slash and duff over topsoil and around beargrass clumps or other replanted vegetation.
4. Seeding and mulching disturbed areas with appropriate seed mix and certified weed free straw.

### Reclamation Bond and Water Right

1. A reclamation bond must be received for this proposal by the Forest Service before work can begin. The Reclamation Bond amount will be calculated by the minerals administrator in an amount sufficient to cover the costs to reclaim the site to pre-project condition.
2. Obtain any necessary permits prior to approval of the Plan of Operations.
3. Seasonal closeout and reclamation must be completed no later than October 1. This is to ensure that all equipment is removed from the site and reclamation is completed before winter weather sets in.
4. Once the Forest Service receives the bond, the Plan of Operations may be approved.

### Water Quality Design Criteria and Mitigation Measures

This project includes design criteria to protect water quality. These are not all-inclusive, as the Forest Plan Standards are incorporated by reference (USDA Forest Service 1987, as amended).

1. Where water is used to process mineral samples onsite using sump or settling ponds, place silt fences or other suitable erosion control devices between the pond and live waters (including streams, creeks, and wetlands) such that sediment laden water is not delivered directly to these waters. Process water should infiltrate naturally and be allowed to flow through forest duff.
2. Do not locate spoils piles (temporary or permanent) within any existing wetland.
3. Replant all disturbed soils as soon as possible to minimize soil erosion.
4. Do not remove dead, dying or downed coarse woody debris from any RHCA.
5. Where feasible, incorporate the existing woody debris and vegetation located onsite into the soil to maintain organic matter content and long-term soil productivity.
6. Do not construct structures (sheds, shelters, etc.) in any wetland or floodplain within the project area.

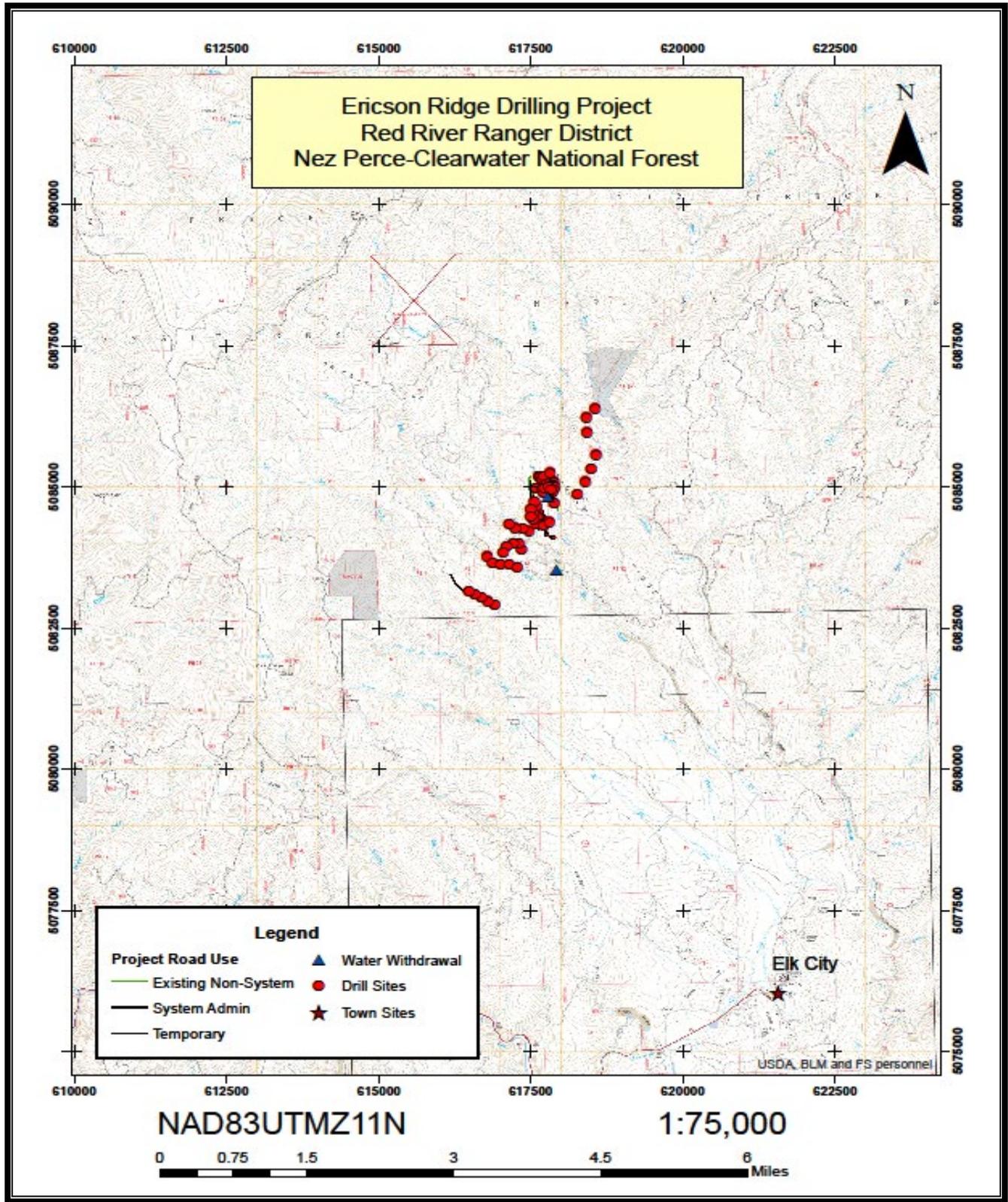
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7. If existing native surface roads are used for access, reconstruct water bars on the native surface project roads prior to the end of the operating season. Follow guidelines and typical drawings, as specified.
8. Do not remove, disturb or damage any in-stream fish habitat structure; e.g., log jam, rock cluster, etc. If necessary for prudent or safe operations to do so, notify the Forest such that the District or Forest fisheries biologist may inspect the proposed changes to fish habitat.
9. Where necessary to maintain sanitation facilities on-site, do not locate facilities closer than 50 feet to any lake, stream, river or wetland; and have spill prevention control and countermeasures so effluent from the facility does not reach any lake, stream, river or wetland.
10. If the total oil or oil products storage at a work site is to exceed 1,320 gallons or if a single container; e.g., fuel truck or trailer, exceeds a capacity of 660 gallons, the purchaser shall prepare and implement a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) Plan. The SPCC plan will meet applicable EPA requirements (40 CFR 112), including certification by a registered professional engineer. (SFP: FW-119, 120, 122).

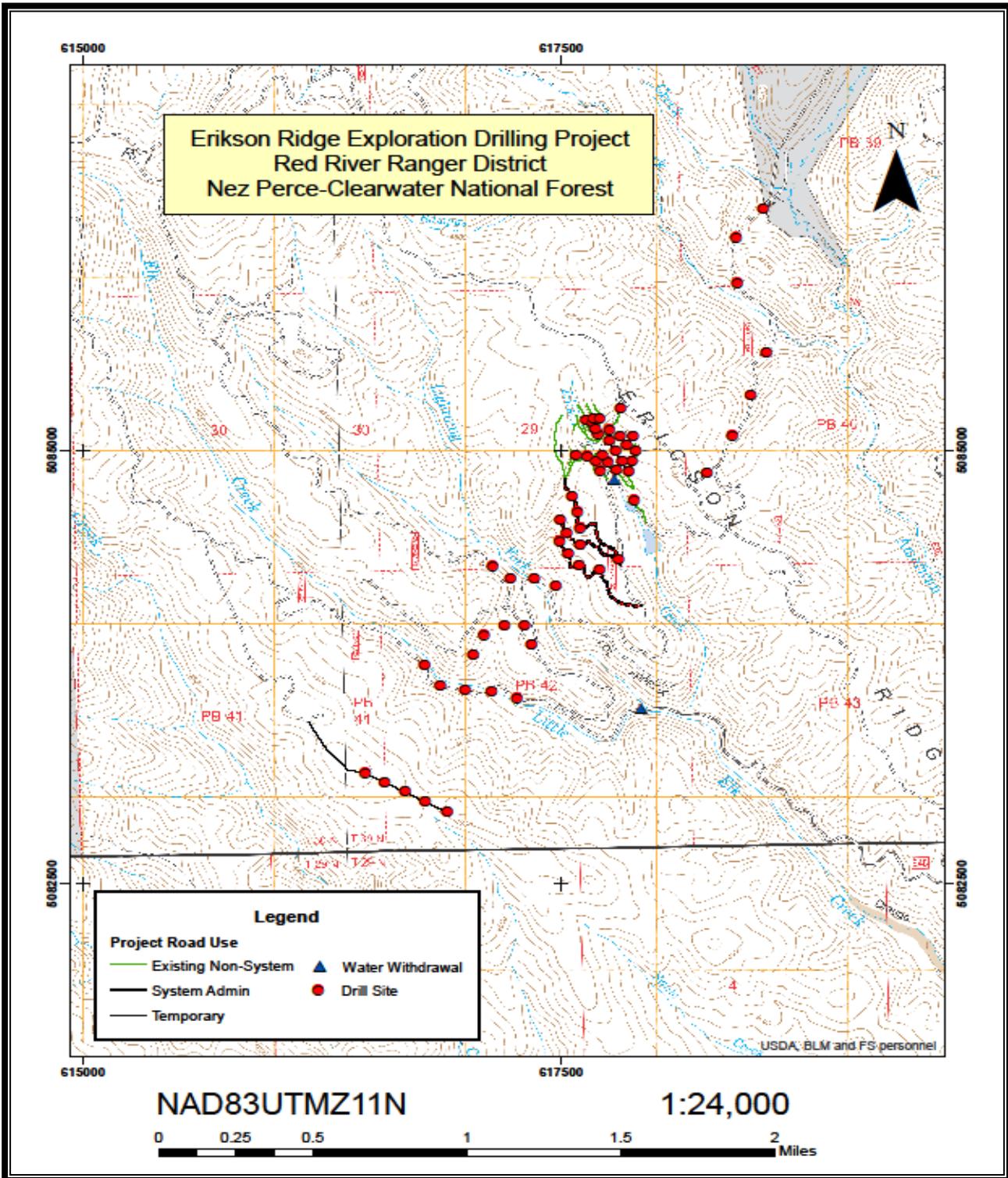
**Project Implementation:** The project is proposed to begin in 2021.

**Project Information:** Hayden Lewis, Geologist; (208) 935-4272; [hayden.lewis@usda.gov](mailto:hayden.lewis@usda.gov)

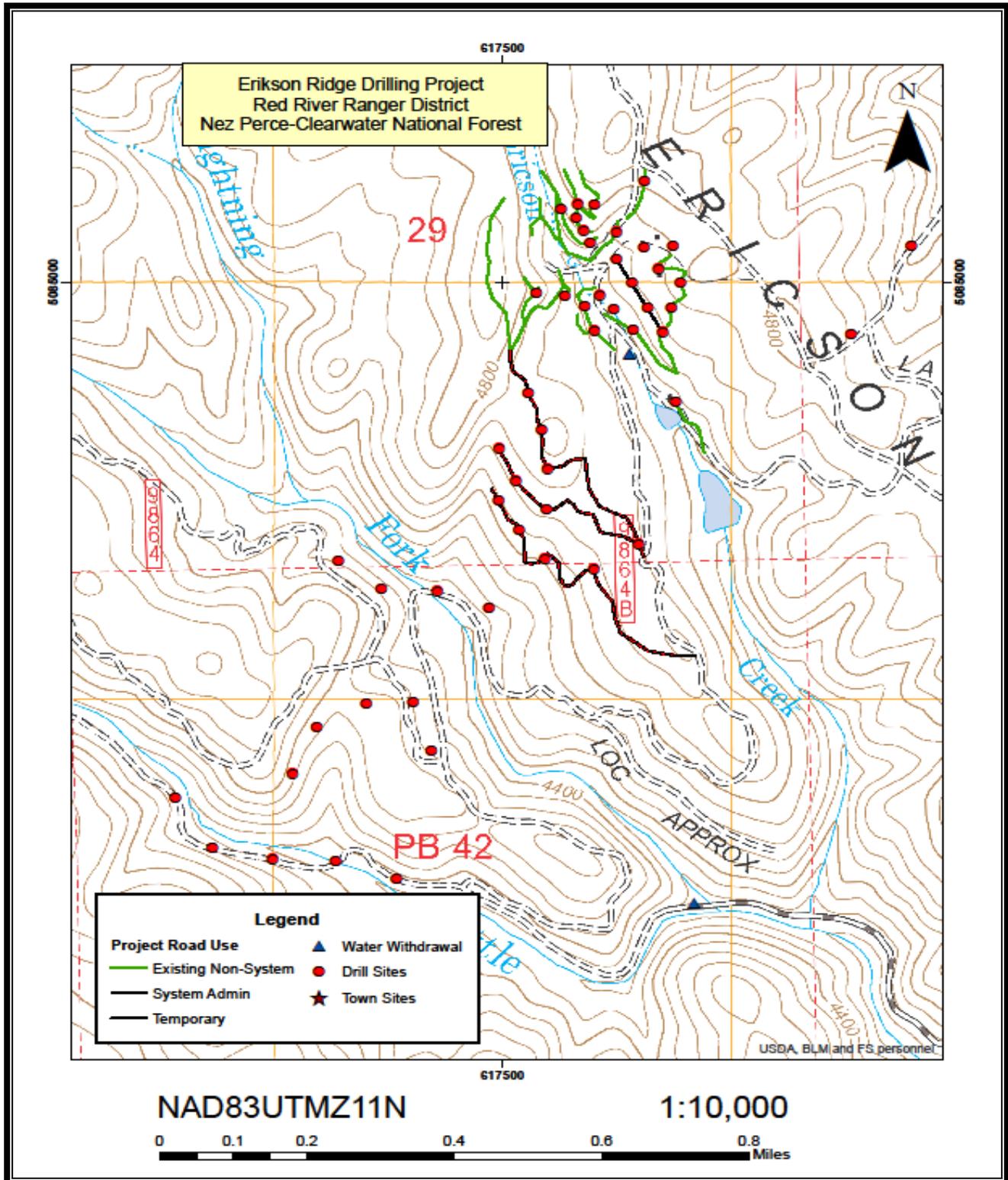
**Map 1. Erikson Ridge Exploration Drilling**



### Map 2. Ericson Ridge Exploration Drilling



**Map 3. Erikson Ridge Exploration Drilling**



## **2) Gold Hill Exploration (Red River Ranger District)**

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6(e)(8): *Short-term (1 year or less) mineral, energy, or geophysical investigations and their incidental support activities that may require cross-country travel by vehicles and equipment, construction of less than 1 mile of low standard road, or use and minor repair of existing roads.*

**Legal Coordinates** (Boise Meridian) (See Maps below)

- Township 26 North , Range 7 East, Sections 23 and 24

### **Background**

The project area is located within riparian and upland areas of a small tributary of McGuire Creek, a tributary to Big Creek. The area has been partly affected by historic lode exploration activities. A primitive, narrow road/trail accesses the area from Forest Road 311 at the junction of Big Creek and McGuire Creek. The recent McGuire Fire burned the area north of McGuire Creek and also burned over sections of the access trail along McGuire Creek.

The purpose of this project is to approve Victor Schneider's Plan Of Operations to explore for mineral resources on National Forest System lands in the area of the proposed action. In accordance with 36 CFR 228.5, the Forest Service is required to determine whether to approve the Plan, as proposed, or to require changes or additions to the Plan deemed necessary to minimize adverse environmental effects and to provide for reclamation of surface resources (36 CFR 228.8).

### **Proposed Action**

The project area is accessed from State Highway 14 to Forest Road 222, then to Forest Road 311 to the confluence of McGuire Creek and Big Creek. From there an existing trail would be taken southeast for 0.9 miles to the project area. The trail runs parallel to and in close proximity to McGuire Creek. At this point an old existing dozer trail would be used to access the sample area.

Some trail reconstruction would be required to access the project area. The actual amount of reconstruction would be determined by a field review once spring snow melt has occurred.

- Some overland travel would be necessary to access the sampling sites.
- Some brush and deadfall clearing would also be necessary.
- Felling of live trees would be avoided when possible. Any necessary felling and removal of live trees would be approved by the District Ranger beforehand.

Exploration would be conducted by trenching down to bedrock to extract rock samples for analysis. The number of trenches proposed is 25-30, each approximately 2-3 feet wide by 5-15 feet long. Total cumulative length of trenches is estimated to be about 500 feet. Total surface disturbance of the trenches would be approximately 0.04 acres.

- Excavation would be accomplished by a small (probably 15,000 lb.) track-mounted excavator.
- Small samples would be processed onsite by use of a small crusher and hand panning/ sluicing. Larger samples would be processed offsite.
- No water withdrawal would be required for processing, therefore no water permits will be necessary.

Concurrent reclamation would be utilized, with only one trench would open at a time. As work at each trench was completed, the trench would be backfilled with overburden and covered using the existing stockpiled duff, vegetative matter and woody debris. The area would then be seeded and mulched.

- A Forest Service approved seed mixture would be used for reseeding as required.

Equipment to be used includes:

- A small track-mounted excavator,
- Two ATVs,
- A small crusher and
- Hand tools.

Crew would probably consist of two or three workers. Due to the remoteness of the area, a camp would be set up near the project site.

- A 16-foot x 24-foot wall tent would be utilized for housing and a small temporary storage shed for storage of tools and equipment for the duration of the project.

Hydrocarbons would be stored in covered secondary containment and a spill kit maintained at refueling sites.

- Spills exceeding one gallon would be reported to the District Ranger and contaminated soils excavated and removed according to applicable regulations.
- No more than fifty gallons of fuel would be stored at the project site.

A stream crossing would be necessary on Big Creek and another at McGuire Creek near the project site. Bridges or other crossing structures may be required for resource protection. The need for a crossing structure would be determined during a field review.

- The crossings would be used for initial transport of equipment to the project site, then intermittently by ATV/UTV, as required for supply runs.

A reclamation bond would be calculated based on the estimated cost of reclaiming active and recently abandoned trenches. A bond sufficient to cover the cost of all anticipated surface disturbance would be submitted by the operator before the Plan of Operation is approved and before work may begin.

All appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Water Quality and Weed Control, and State of Idaho BMPs for Mining will be followed. Standard design criteria and mitigation measures, developed for mining, will be implemented as appropriate. As part of this decision, the claimant is required to:

#### General Requirements

1. Notify District Ranger or minerals administrator at least 48 hours before any work is to begin.
2. Wash all vehicles and equipment used at the site before being brought onto National Forest system lands to prevent the spread of noxious weeds, seeds or propagules.
3. Avoid disturbance of wetlands and stream riparian zones.
4. Avoid working on saturated soils. Exploration activities must cease to avoid sedimentation into intermittent streams if excessive storm water or ground water runoff is occurring.
5. Prevent discharge of water into any live stream or wetland. To avoid erosion and discharge impact to streams, all activities (including drilling, construction of pads, hand-dug sumps, and any overland travel) will be kept at least 164 feet (50 m) from flowing water that is down gradient.

6. Place weed free straw bales or install silt fence in places as identified by a Forest Service representative to minimize sediment migration from stockpiles and disturbed ground.
7. Obtain prior approval from the Forest Service for cutting or removal of trees or other large live vegetation. Downfall may be removed as needed.
8. Set aside cleared slash and green vegetation (e.g., bear grass) during test pit construction. Remove vegetation in clumps, if possible, with the soil mass intact. Store excavated topsoil and subsoil in separate stockpiles to be used during reclamation. Temporarily replant vegetation clumps in the topsoil stockpile.
9. To help alleviate the need for field crew to decide if fish are present in water withdrawal locations, a 1/8" screen will be installed on pump intake hoses even when utilizing a 5-gallon bucket with drilled holes. Water withdrawals will be located on small, high gradient streams as far up creek drainages as feasible to avoid habitat used by fish and sourced from streams under existing permits from the State of Idaho.
10. Collect process water in the existing pit or settling pond(s). Regulate discharge to prevent overtopping the pit/pond, and/or land apply excess water on a site designated by the Forest Service. Application sites will typically be natural sumps or depressions, pits or trap(s) that avoid impacts to wetlands or streams and minimizes impacts to other surface resources. Application rate will be such that overland flow is avoided and a natural infiltration occurs through forest duff.
11. Follow the State of Idaho Best Management Practices (BMPs) for all surface disturbing activities, reclamation, and abandonment. BMPs are outlined in the Best Management Practices for Mining in Idaho (Idaho BMPs) (Idaho Department of Lands, et al. 1992).
12. Report accidents or injuries to the Forest Service within 24 hours.
13. Develop hazardous materials and spill prevention plan and submit it to the District Ranger prior to operations.
14. Store no more than 50 gallons of fuel or oil in the project area. Store all fuel or oil in a covered secondary containment system that limits spills to the environment and is capable of 110% volume of stored products. Fuel must be stored 328 feet (100m) from flowing water. Spills kits must be located at all refueling or fuel transfer locations.
15. Remove all equipment, garbage and trash resulting from the operation from National Forest system lands prior to the end of the regular operating season. Dispose garbage and trash at a State of Idaho approved site.
16. Use and maintain a sanitary facility (e.g., porta-potty or self-contained camper) at the project area while operations are ongoing.
17. Comply with all applicable Federal and State fire laws and regulations and take all reasonable measures to prevent and suppress fires on the area of operations and require employees, contractors and subcontractors to do likewise (36 CFR 228.11).
18. If any previously undiscovered threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species are encountered at any point in time prior to or during the implementation of this project, a Forest Service District Biologist will be consulted and appropriate measures will be enacted.
19. If accidental take occurs from any previously undiscovered threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species, all work must cease and a Forest Service District biologist notified.
20. Human food and garbage will be stored in an enclosed and secure area to avoid conflict with wildlife.

### Wildlife

1. Retain trees with large stick nests and obvious cavities.
2. Retain snags (especially large snags) and coarse woody debris.
3. Fence sump(s) until they are fully reclaimed to deter large and small animals from falling into, and becoming trapped in, the sump(s).

### Cultural Resources

1. If previously undiscovered cultural resources (historic/prehistoric objects, artefacts or sites) are exposed as a result of operations, cease operations until notification is received from a Forest Service archeologist or the Forest Service and the operator has complied with provisions for mitigating unforeseen impacts as required by 36 CFR 228.4(e) and 36 CFR 800.

### Reclamation

1. Restoring subsoil and topsoil to existing natural ground contour.
2. Replanting beargrass clumps or other vegetation in topsoil.
3. Placing locally available slash and duff over topsoil and around beargrass clumps or other replanted vegetation.
4. Seeding and mulching disturbed areas with appropriate seed mix and certified weed free straw.

### Reclamation Bond and Water Right

1. A reclamation bond must be received for this proposal by the Forest Service before work can begin. The Reclamation Bond amount will be calculated by the minerals administrator in an amount sufficient to cover the costs to reclaim the site to pre-project condition.
2. Obtain any necessary permits prior to approval of the Plan of Operations.
3. Seasonal closeout and reclamation must be completed no later than October 1. This is to ensure that all equipment is removed from the site and reclamation is completed before winter weather sets in.
4. Once the Forest Service receives the bond, the Plan of Operations may be approved.

### Water Quality Design Criteria and Mitigation Measures

This project includes design criteria to protect water quality. These are not all-inclusive, as the Forest Plan Standards are incorporated by reference (USDA Forest Service 1987, as amended).

1. Where water is used to process mineral samples onsite using sump or settling ponds, place silt fences or other suitable erosion control devices between the pond and live waters (including streams, creeks, and wetlands) such that sediment laden water is not delivered directly to these waters. Process water should infiltrate naturally and be allowed to flow through forest duff.
2. Do not locate spoils piles (temporary or permanent) within any existing wetland.
3. Replant all disturbed soils as soon as possible to minimize soil erosion.
4. Do not remove dead, dying or downed coarse woody debris from any RHCA.
5. Where feasible, incorporate the existing woody debris and vegetation located onsite into the soil to maintain organic matter content and long-term soil productivity.
6. Do not construct structures (sheds, shelters, etc.) in any wetland or floodplain within the project area.

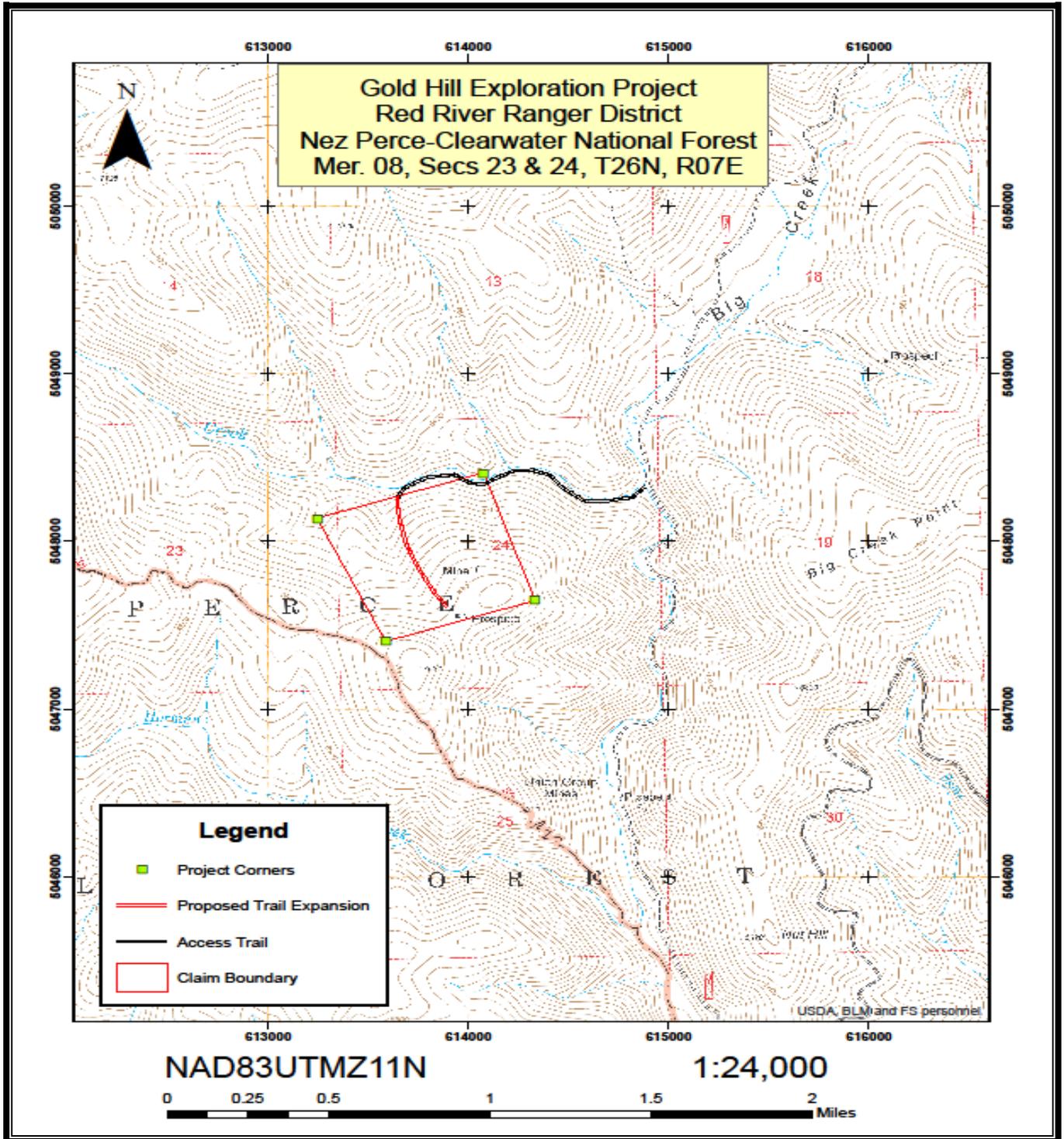
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7. If existing native surface roads are used for access, reconstruct water bars on the native surface project roads prior to the end of the operating season. Follow guidelines and typical drawings, as specified.
8. Do not remove, disturb or damage any in-stream fish habitat structure; e.g., log jam, rock cluster, etc. If necessary for prudent or safe operations to do so, notify the Forest such that the District or Forest fisheries biologist may inspect the proposed changes to fish habitat.
9. Where necessary to maintain sanitation facilities on-site, do not locate facilities closer than 50 feet to any lake, stream, river or wetland; and have spill prevention control and countermeasures so effluent from the facility does not reach any lake, stream, river or wetland.
10. If the total oil or oil products storage at a work site is to exceed 1,320 gallons or if a single container; e.g., fuel truck or trailer, exceeds a capacity of 660 gallons, the purchaser shall prepare and implement a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) Plan. The SPCC plan will meet applicable EPA requirements (40 CFR 112), including certification by a registered professional engineer. (SFP: FW-119, 120, 122).

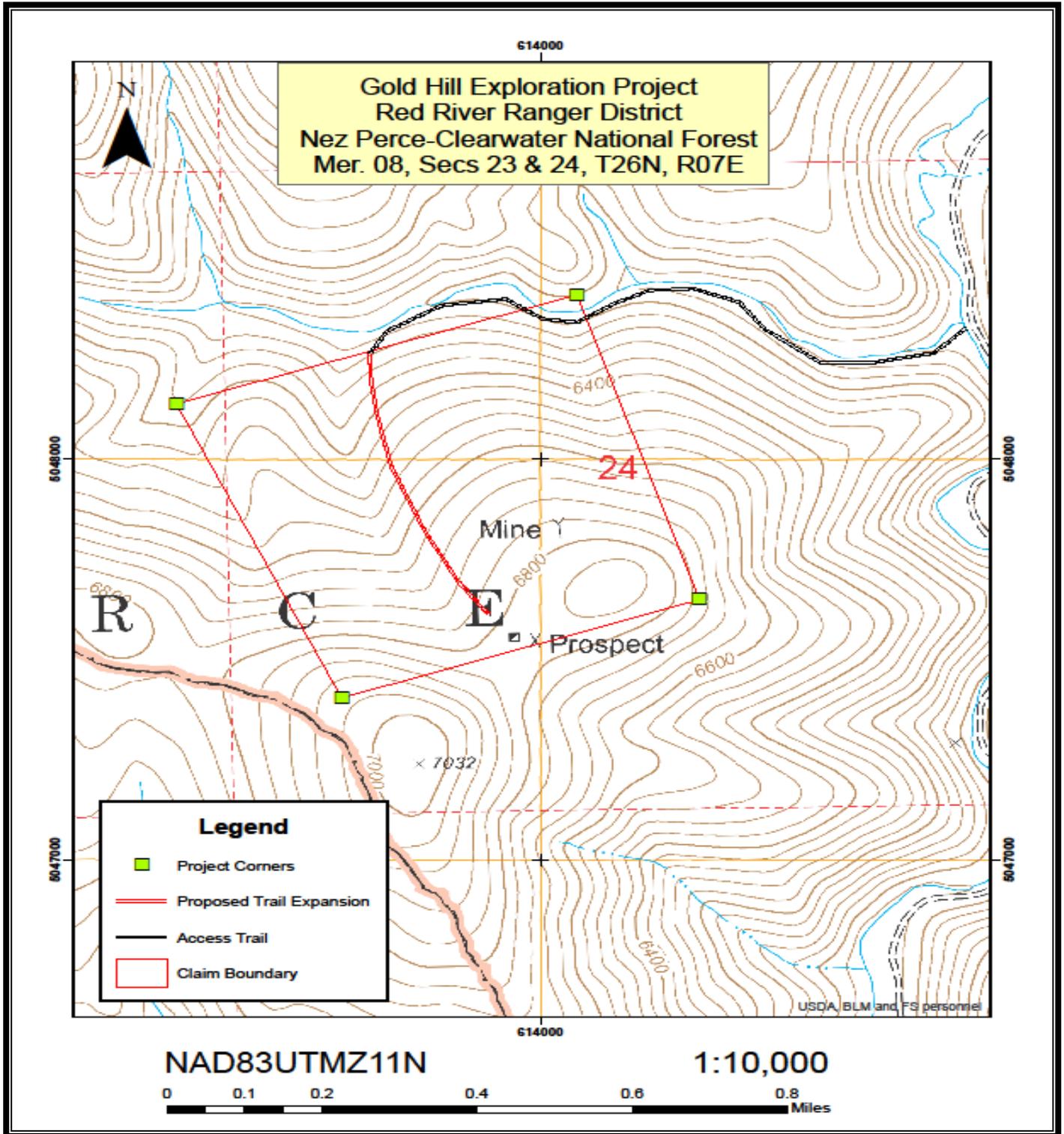
**Project Implementation:** The project is proposed to begin in 2021.

**Project Information:** Marty Jones, Minerals Administrator, (208) 983-5158, martin.jones@usda.gov

**Map 1. Gold Hill Exploration**



**Map 2. Gold Hill Exploration**



### **3) Midnight Star Placer Exploration (Red River Ranger District)**

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6(e)(8): *Short-term (1 year or less) mineral, energy, or geophysical investigations and their incidental support activities that may require cross-country travel by vehicles and equipment, construction of less than 1 mile of low standard road, or use and minor repair of existing roads.*

**Legal Coordinates** (Boise Meridian) (See Map below)

- Township 29 North , Range 7 East, Sections 17 and 18

#### **Background**

The project area lies within riparian and upland areas near the head of a small tributary of Newsome Creek. The area has been partly affected by historic placer mining activities.

The purpose of this project is to approve Ron Miller and Marty Sanford's Plan Of Operations to explore for mineral resources on National Forest System lands in the area of the proposed action. In accordance with 36 CFR 228.5, the Forest Service is required to determine whether to approve the Plan, as proposed, or to require changes or additions to the Plan deemed necessary to minimize adverse environmental effects and to provide for reclamation of surface resources (36 CFR 228.8).

#### **Proposed Action**

The project area is accessed from State Highway 14 at Leggett Creek Campground, to Forest Service Road (FSR) 649 to FSR 440, to the junction of FSR 440 and FSR 440D. From there an existing trail would be taken approximately one half mile to the project area.

Exploration would be conducted by trenching to extract placer samples for analysis.

- Twenty (20) trenches are proposed, each approximately 4 feet wide by 16 feet long down to bedrock (estimated to be at 8-12 feet deep), if possible.
- Total amount of surface disturbance from the trenches would be approximately 0.3 acres.
- A temporary safety fence would be constructed around open trenches to prevent wildlife from falling into and being trapped in the trench.

Excavation would be accomplished using a 750 or similar sized backhoe and/or a similar sized track mounted excavator.

- No road construction or reconstruction is proposed.
- Overland travel by the backhoe would be necessary to access the trench sites. Some brush and deadfall clearing would be necessary. Felling of live trees would be avoided, where possible.
- If necessary, the felling and removal of up to 20 live trees would have to be approved by the District Ranger beforehand.

Trench material would be tested by use of a trommel that would recirculate process water through two settling ponds (8 feet by 8 feet and 4 feet deep), each capable of containing 1900 gallons of process water. A 3-inch highbanker would also be used to process smaller samples.

- Process water would be hauled from Elk City to the project site if possible.
- If water is drawn from streams within the Forest, an Idaho Department of Water Resources permit would be obtained prior to withdrawal.

Discharge of process water would not be allowed within 50 feet of any stream or wetland. Excess water would be allowed to percolate naturally into surrounding substrate and forest duff.

- No instream trenching would occur.
- If sediment becomes mobilized by storm water runoff, silt fencing and straw wattles would be utilized to stop/divert runoff and prevent erosion and sediment delivery.
- Silt fencing would also be used to prevent sediment runoff from overburden stockpiles as necessary.
- If extremely wet conditions occur, work would be halted.

As work progresses, tailings would be replaced into the open trench. After exploration at a site was completed, the trench would be backfilled with overburden, existing stockpiled duff, vegetative matter and woody debris would be applied, and the area seeded and mulched.

- Concurrent reclamation would be utilized.
- Only one trench would be open at a time.
- All disturbed areas would be reseeded with a Forest Service approved seed mixture as required.

Equipment used onsite includes:

- A 750 or equivalent sized backhoe or tracked excavator,
- Two ATVs,
- A self-contained recirculatory trommel,
- A 3-inch highbanker, and
- Chainsaw and other hand tools.

The crew would consist of two operators and two laborers who would camp (tents and/or fifth wheel campers) at Leggett Creek Campground.

- An alternate campsite would be Sing Lee Campground on Newsome Creek.

Hydrocarbons would be stored in covered secondary containment, and a spill kit maintained at refueling sites.

- Spills exceeding one gallon would be reported to the District Ranger and contaminated soils excavated and removed according to applicable regulations.
- No more than fifty gallons of fuel would be stored at the project site.

Stream crossings would be avoided where possible. If necessary, a temporary crossing may be constructed from either felled timber or suitable planking brought from offsite.

A reclamation bond would be calculated based on the estimated cost of reclaiming active and recently abandoned trenches. A bond sufficient to cover the cost of all anticipated surface disturbance would be submitted by the operator before the Plan of Operation is approved and before work may begin.

All appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Water Quality and Weed Control, and State of Idaho BMPs for Mining will be followed. Standard design criteria and mitigation measures, developed for mining, will be implemented as appropriate. As part of this decision, the claimant is required to:

#### General Requirements

1. Notify District Ranger or minerals administrator at least 48 hours before any work is to begin.

2. Wash all vehicles and equipment used at the site before being brought onto National Forest system lands to prevent the spread of noxious weeds, seeds or propagules.
3. Avoid disturbance of wetlands and stream riparian zones.
4. Avoid working on saturated soils. Exploration activities must cease to avoid sedimentation into intermittent streams if excessive storm water or ground water runoff is occurring.
5. Prevent discharge of water into any live stream or wetland. To avoid erosion and discharge impact to streams, all activities (including drilling, construction of pads, hand-dug sumps, and any overland travel) will be kept at least 164 feet (50 m) from flowing water that is down gradient.
6. Place weed free straw bales or install silt fence in places as identified by a Forest Service representative to minimize sediment migration from stockpiles and disturbed ground.
7. Obtain prior approval from the Forest Service for cutting or removal of trees or other large live vegetation. Downfall may be removed as needed.
8. Set aside cleared slash and green vegetation (e.g., bear grass) during test pit construction. Remove vegetation in clumps, if possible, with the soil mass intact. Store excavated topsoil and subsoil in separate stockpiles to be used during reclamation. Temporarily replant vegetation clumps in the topsoil stockpile.
9. To help alleviate the need for field crew to decide if fish are present in water withdrawal locations, a 1/8" screen will be installed on pump intake hoses even when utilizing a 5-gallon bucket with drilled holes. Water withdrawals will be located on small, high gradient streams as far up creek drainages as feasible to avoid habitat used by fish and sourced from streams under existing permits from the State of Idaho.
10. Collect process water in the existing pit or settling pond(s). Regulate discharge to prevent overtopping the pit/pond, and/or land apply excess water on a site designated by the Forest Service. Application sites will typically be natural sumps or depressions, pits or trap(s) that avoid impacts to wetlands or streams and minimizes impacts to other surface resources. Application rate will be such that overland flow is avoided and a natural infiltration occurs through forest duff.
11. Follow the State of Idaho Best Management Practices (BMPs) for all surface disturbing activities, reclamation, and abandonment. BMPs are outlined in the Best Management Practices for Mining in Idaho (Idaho BMPs) (Idaho Department of Lands, et al. 1992).
12. Report accidents or injuries to the Forest Service within 24 hours.
13. Develop hazardous materials and spill prevention plan and submit it to the District Ranger prior to operations.
14. Store no more than 50 gallons of fuel or oil in the project area. Store all fuel or oil in a covered secondary containment system that limits spills to the environment and is capable of 110% volume of stored products. Fuel must be stored 328 feet (100m) from flowing water. Spills kits must be located at all refueling or fuel transfer locations.
15. Remove all equipment, garbage and trash resulting from the operation from National Forest system lands prior to the end of the regular operating season. Dispose garbage and trash at a State of Idaho approved site.
16. Use and maintain a sanitary facility (e.g., porta-potty or self-contained camper) at the project area while operations are ongoing.

17. Comply with all applicable Federal and State fire laws and regulations and take all reasonable measures to prevent and suppress fires on the area of operations and require employees, contractors and subcontractors to do likewise (36 CFR 228.11).
18. If any previously undiscovered threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species are encountered at any point in time prior to or during the implementation of this project, a Forest Service District Biologist will be consulted and appropriate measures will be enacted.
19. If accidental take occurs from any previously undiscovered threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species, all work must cease and a Forest Service District biologist notified.
20. Human food and garbage will be stored in an enclosed and secure area to avoid conflict with wildlife.

#### Wildlife

1. Fence sump(s) until they are fully reclaimed to deter large and small animals from falling into and becoming trapped in the sump(s).

#### Cultural Resources

1. If previously undiscovered cultural resources (historic/prehistoric objects, artefacts or sites) are exposed as a result of operations, cease operations until notification is received from a Forest Service archeologist or the Forest Service and the operator has complied with provisions for mitigating unforeseen impacts as required by 36 CFR 228.4(e) and 36 CFR 800.

#### Reclamation

1. Restoring subsoil and topsoil to existing natural ground contour.
2. Replanting beargrass clumps or other vegetation in topsoil.
3. Placing locally available slash and duff over topsoil and around beargrass clumps or other replanted vegetation.
4. Seeding and mulching disturbed areas with appropriate seed mix and certified weed free straw.

#### Reclamation Bond and Water Right

1. A reclamation bond must be received for this proposal by the Forest Service before work can begin. The Reclamation Bond amount will be calculated by the minerals administrator in an amount sufficient to cover the costs to reclaim the site to pre-project condition.
2. Obtain any necessary permits prior to approval of the Plan of Operations.
3. Seasonal closeout and reclamation must be completed no later than October 1. This is to ensure that all equipment is removed from the site and reclamation is completed before winter weather sets in.
4. Once the Forest Service receives the bond, the Plan of Operations may be approved.

#### Water Quality Design Criteria and Mitigation Measures

This project includes design criteria to protect water quality. These are not all-inclusive, as the Forest Plan Standards are incorporated by reference (USDA Forest Service 1987, as amended).

1. Where water is used to process mineral samples onsite using sump or settling ponds, place silt fences or other suitable erosion control devices between the pond and live waters (including streams, creeks, and wetlands) such that sediment laden water is not delivered

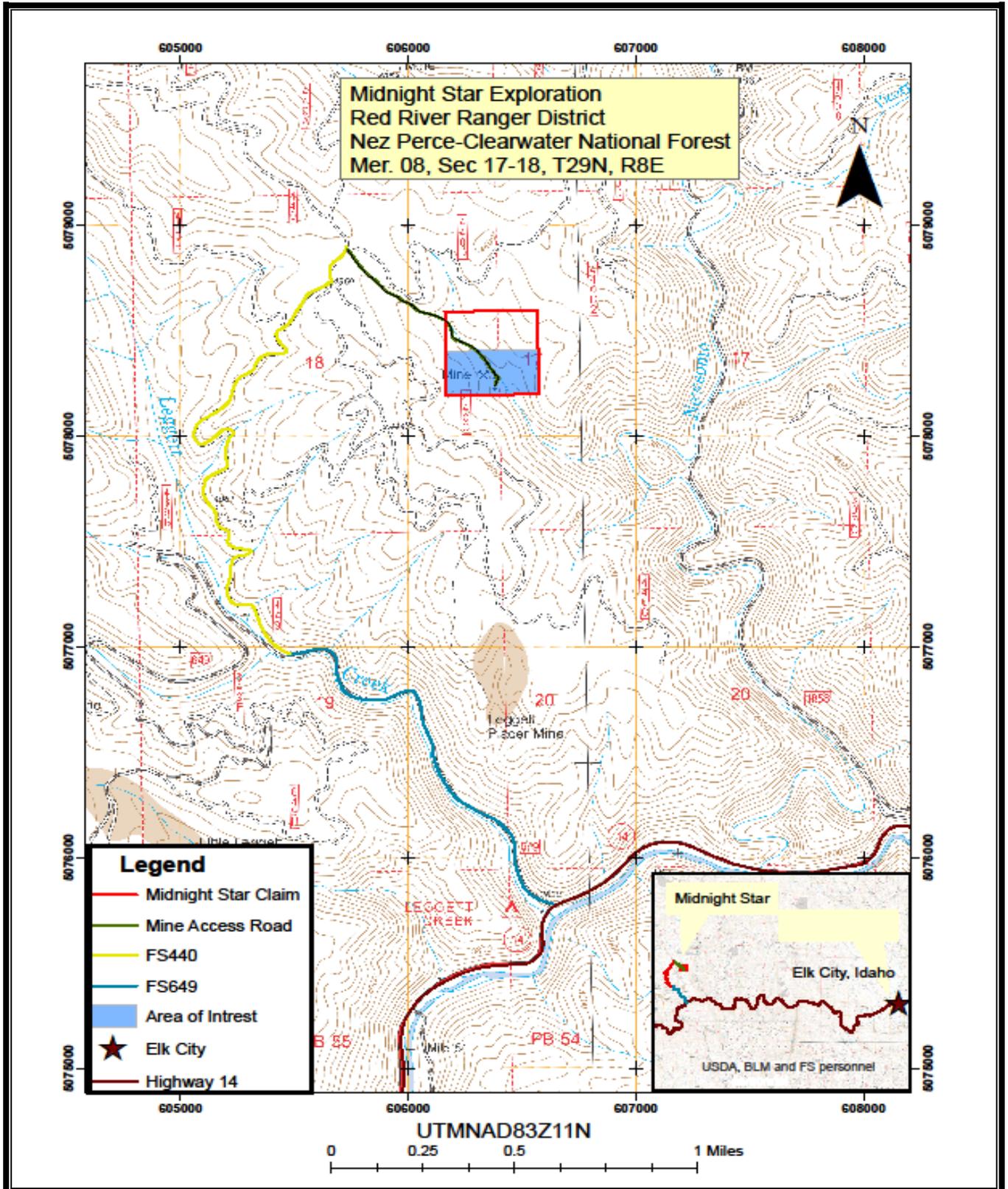
directly to these waters. Process water should infiltrate naturally and be allowed to flow through forest duff.

2. Do not locate spoils piles (temporary or permanent) within any existing wetland.
3. Replant all disturbed soils as soon as possible to minimize soil erosion.
4. Do not remove dead, dying or downed coarse woody debris from any RHCA.
5. Where feasible, incorporate the existing woody debris and vegetation located onsite into the soil to maintain organic matter content and long-term soil productivity.
6. Do not construct structures (sheds, shelters, etc.) in any wetland or floodplain within the project area.
7. If existing native surface roads are used for access, reconstruct water bars on the native surface project roads prior to the end of the operating season. Follow guidelines and typical drawings, as specified.
8. Do not remove, disturb or damage any in-stream fish habitat structure; e.g., log jam, rock cluster, etc. If necessary for prudent or safe operations to do so, notify the Forest such that the District or Forest fisheries biologist may inspect the proposed changes to fish habitat.
9. Where necessary to maintain sanitation facilities on-site, do not locate facilities closer than 50 feet to any lake, stream, river or wetland; and have spill prevention control and countermeasures so effluent from the facility does not reach any lake, stream, river or wetland.
10. If the total oil or oil products storage at a work site is to exceed 1,320 gallons or if a single container; e.g., fuel truck or trailer, exceeds a capacity of 660 gallons, the purchaser shall prepare and implement a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) Plan. The SPCC plan will meet applicable EPA requirements (40 CFR 112), including certification by a registered professional engineer. (SFP: FW-119, 120, 122).

**Project Implementation:** The project is proposed to begin in 2021.

**Project Information:** Marty Jones, Minerals Administrator, (208) 983-5158, martin.jones@usda.gov

**Map. Midnight Star Placer Exploration**



#### **4) South Orogrande Exploration Drilling (Red River Ranger District)**

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6(e)(8): *Short-term (1 year or less) mineral, energy, or geophysical investigations and their incidental support activities that may require cross-country travel by vehicles and equipment, construction of less than 1 mile of low standard road, or use and minor repair of existing roads.*

**Legal Coordinates** (Boise Meridian) (See Maps below)

- Township 27 North, Range 8 East, Section 31
- Township 27 North, Range 7 East, Sections 11 and 36
- Township 26 North, Range 8 East, Sections 1 and 13
- Township 26 North, Range 7 East, Sections 1 and 12

#### **Background**

The dominant feature of the project area is the adjacent Big Creek Meadow, comprised of various wetland species. The remainder of the project area is predominately upland vegetation and timber of mixed species, with smaller areas of riparian vegetation. Large parts of the area were burned by the recent McGuire fire. Evidence of extensive historic mining activity exists throughout the project area.

The purpose of this project is to approve Gold Lion Resource's Plan Of Operations to explore for mineral resources on National Forest System lands in the area of the proposed action. In accordance with 36 CFR 228.5, the Forest Service is required to determine whether to approve the Plan, as proposed, or to require changes or additions to the Plan deemed necessary to minimize adverse environmental effects and to provide for reclamation of surface resources (36 CFR 228.8).

#### **Proposed Action**

The proposal is for a total of 52 drill sites in two areas (see Maps):

- The first area is located just south of Orogrande between the confluence of Crooked River and the West Fork of Crooked River. Four sites will be drilled in this area.
  - Access to the first area is by State Highway 14 (South Fork) to Forest Development Road 233, then on Road 233 to just past the junction of Road 233 and Road 311 to the first four sites.
- The second area is located in the general area of the West Fork of Big Creek. The remainder of the drill sites are located in this area.
  - The second area is accessed via Road 311 south to the Big Creek Meadows area.
- Drill pads would be offset from the existing road prism to provide for passage of motorized traffic.

Approximately 3,500 feet (15 feet wide) of temporary road would need to be constructed to provide access to some of the drill sites. Total surface disturbance of the temporary roads would be around two (2) acres.

Each drill site is approximately 30 feet x 50 feet (0.03 ac.), but may be slightly larger or smaller depending on slope and other site conditions. Depending upon availability, the 4-inch holes would be drilled using two truck/track mounted or skid mounted core drill rigs.

- The number of holes drilled in each site would vary, dependent on results of ongoing drilling.
- The holes would be drilled to a maximum of 1500 feet deep, but may be adjusted as targets become more defined.
- Only one site would be active at a time but as drilling is nearing completion at a site, the next site could be prepared ahead of time to minimize the amount of time the drill rig sits idle.
- Total surface area of all drill sites would be around 1.9 acres.

A sump or infiltration gallery, roughly 6 feet wide x 8 feet deep x 15 feet long, would be dug at each site to contain drill fluid and to allow drill cuttings to settle out.

- No drill additives are anticipated to be used. However, if required, all drilling additives would be biodegradable.

Drill cores would be analyzed offsite by contracted geologists to determine the size and extent of the deposit and thereby adjust the location and target depth of subsequent drill holes.

- The core results may preclude the need for drilling in all of the proposed 52 drill sites.

The project would withdraw water from nearby streams that feed into a municipal water source. A water use permit would be obtained from the Idaho Department of Water Resources before work could start.

- All water withdrawal sites would be reviewed by Forest Service specialists before any water is taken from any stream.

In addition to the water use permit, a Storm Water permit would be obtained from the Environmental Protection Agency.

- Any additional permits that may be required by the state or other services will also be secured before work could start.

Equipment used to support drilling includes:

- RC Drill Truck Mounted,
- Core Drill,
- Power Pack – Drill Core,
- Portable Rod Storage,
- Rubber Tired Forklift,
- ATVs,
- Pickup Trucks,
- Water Truck,
- Fuel/Lube Truck and
- Water Pumps.

The number of personnel associated with the project would be limited to the drill crew, geologist, and occasional corporate or consulting staff.

- The drill crew and other support staff would likely stay in Elk City.
- Some personnel may camp within the mine claim boundary using existing dispersed camp sites.
  - Personnel camping within the claim would follow the same rules as the general public for dispersed camping.

Hydrocarbons would be stored in covered secondary containment and a spill kit maintained at refueling sites.

- Spills exceeding one gallon would be reported to the District Ranger and contaminated soils excavated and removed according to applicable regulations.
- No more than fifty gallons of fuel would be stored at the project site.

When work at a drill site is completed, the site would be reclaimed before moving to the next drill site.

- Drill holes would be reclaimed according to the State of Idaho Best Management Practices for filling and plugging drill holes.
- Sumps would be allowed to dewater through percolation and evaporation and then back-filled: Topsoil would be replaced, duff and woody debris scattered over the area if available, and the area seeded and mulched as necessary.
- If earthwork or leveling was required for any drill pad, the disturbed area would be restored to the original contour, the topsoil replaced from newly created stock piles, and the site revegetated.

The project would cover two operational seasons. Seasonal closure of the project area would occur in late September to late October, before equipment removal resulted in resource and/or road damage.

- Prior to seasonal closure, the operator and any contracted personnel would be required to remove all consumable materials (i.e. gas, oil, etc.), equipment including drilling rigs, and all other operational support items from the project area.
- All temporary roads would be placed in storage in anticipation for the next season's use.

Final reclamation would include ripping and/or scarifying and seeding of constructed features, i.e. drill pads, temporary roads, etc. All temporary roads would be blocked from public access during and after final reclamation.

- The reclamation bond would not be released until required conditions of reclamation had been met.
- Forest Service personnel would survey the project area (sites, etc.) periodically to ensure that reclamation had brought the disturbed areas back to as close to pre-existing conditions as was possible.

A reclamation bond would be calculated based on the estimated cost of reclaiming active and recently abandoned sites. A bond sufficient to cover the cost of all anticipated surface disturbance would be submitted by the operator before the Plan of Operation is approved and before work may begin.

All appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Water Quality and Weed Control, and State of Idaho BMPs for Mining will be followed. Standard design criteria and mitigation measures, developed for mining, will be implemented as appropriate. As part of this decision, the claimant is required to:

#### General Requirements

1. Notify District Ranger or minerals administrator at least 48 hours before any work is to begin.
2. Wash all vehicles and equipment used at the site before being brought onto National Forest system lands to prevent the spread of noxious weeds, seeds or propagules.
3. Avoid disturbance of wetlands and stream riparian zones.
4. Avoid working on saturated soils. Exploration activities must cease to avoid sedimentation into intermittent streams if excessive storm water or ground water runoff is occurring.

5. Prevent discharge of water into any live stream or wetland. To avoid erosion and discharge impact to streams, all activities (including drilling, construction of pads, hand-dug sumps, and any overland travel) will be kept at least 164 feet (50 m) from flowing water that is down gradient.
6. Place weed free straw bales or install silt fence in places as identified by a Forest Service representative to minimize sediment migration from stockpiles and disturbed ground.
7. Obtain prior approval from the Forest Service for cutting or removal of trees or other large live vegetation. Downfall may be removed as needed.
8. Set aside cleared slash and green vegetation (e.g., bear grass) during test pit construction. Remove vegetation in clumps, if possible, with the soil mass intact. Store excavated topsoil and subsoil in separate stockpiles to be used during reclamation. Temporarily replant vegetation clumps in the topsoil stockpile.
9. To help alleviate the need for field crew to decide if fish are present in water withdrawal locations, a 1/8" screen will be installed on pump intake hoses even when utilizing a 5-gallon bucket with drilled holes. Water withdrawals will be located on small, high gradient streams as far up creek drainages as feasible to avoid habitat used by fish and sourced from streams under existing permits from the State of Idaho.
10. Collect process water in the existing pit or settling pond(s). Regulate discharge to prevent overtopping the pit/pond, and/or land apply excess water on a site designated by the Forest Service. Application sites will typically be natural sumps or depressions, pits or trap(s) that avoid impacts to wetlands or streams and minimizes impacts to other surface resources. Application rate will be such that overland flow is avoided and a natural infiltration occurs through forest duff.
11. Follow the State of Idaho Best Management Practices (BMPs) for all surface disturbing activities, reclamation, and abandonment. BMPs are outlined in the Best Management Practices for Mining in Idaho (Idaho BMPs) (Idaho Department of Lands, et al. 1992).
12. Report accidents or injuries to the Forest Service within 24 hours.
13. Develop hazardous materials and spill prevention plan and submit it to the District Ranger prior to operations.
14. Store no more than 50 gallons of fuel or oil in the project area. Store all fuel or oil in a covered secondary containment system that limits spills to the environment and is capable of 110% volume of stored products. Fuel must be stored 328 feet (100m) from flowing water. Spills kits must be located at all refueling or fuel transfer locations.
15. Remove all equipment, garbage and trash resulting from the operation from National Forest system lands prior to the end of the regular operating season. Dispose garbage and trash at a State of Idaho approved site.
16. Use and maintain a sanitary facility (e.g., porta-potty or self-contained camper) at the project area while operations are ongoing.
17. Comply with all applicable Federal and State fire laws and regulations and take all reasonable measures to prevent and suppress fires on the area of operations and require employees, contractors and subcontractors to do likewise (36 CFR 228.11).
18. If any previously undiscovered threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species are encountered at any point in time prior to or during the implementation of this project, a Forest Service District Biologist will be consulted and appropriate measures will be enacted.

19. If accidental take occurs from any previously undiscovered threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species, all work must cease and a Forest Service District biologist notified.
20. Human food and garbage will be stored in an enclosed and secure area to avoid conflict with wildlife.

#### Wildlife

1. Retain trees with large stick nests and obvious cavities.
2. Retain snags (especially large snags) and coarse woody debris.
3. Fence sump(s) until they are fully reclaimed to deter large and small animals from falling into, and becoming trapped in, the sump(s).

#### Cultural Resources

1. If previously undiscovered cultural resources (historic/prehistoric objects, artefacts or sites) are exposed as a result of operations, cease operations until notification is received from a Forest Service archeologist or the Forest Service and the operator has complied with provisions for mitigating unforeseen impacts as required by 36 CFR 228.4(e) and 36 CFR 800.

#### Reclamation

1. Restoring subsoil and topsoil to existing natural ground contour.
2. Replanting beargrass clumps or other vegetation in topsoil.
3. Placing locally available slash and duff over topsoil and around beargrass clumps or other replanted vegetation.
4. Seeding and mulching disturbed areas with appropriate seed mix and certified weed free straw.

#### Reclamation Bond and Water Right

1. A reclamation bond must be received for this proposal by the Forest Service before work can begin. The Reclamation Bond amount will be calculated by the minerals administrator in an amount sufficient to cover the costs to reclaim the site to pre-project condition.
2. Obtain any necessary permits prior to approval of the Plan of Operations.
3. Seasonal closeout and reclamation must be completed no later than October 1. This is to ensure that all equipment is removed from the site and reclamation is completed before winter weather sets in.
4. Once the Forest Service receives the bond, the Plan of Operations may be approved.

#### Water Quality Design Criteria and Mitigation Measures

This project includes design criteria to protect water quality. These are not all-inclusive, as the Forest Plan Standards are incorporated by reference (USDA Forest Service 1987, as amended).

1. Where water is used to process mineral samples onsite using sump or settling ponds, place silt fences or other suitable erosion control devices between the pond and live waters (including streams, creeks, and wetlands) such that sediment laden water is not delivered directly to these waters. Process water should infiltrate naturally and be allowed to flow through forest duff.
2. Do not locate spoils piles (temporary or permanent) within any existing wetland.
3. Replant all disturbed soils as soon as possible to minimize soil erosion.

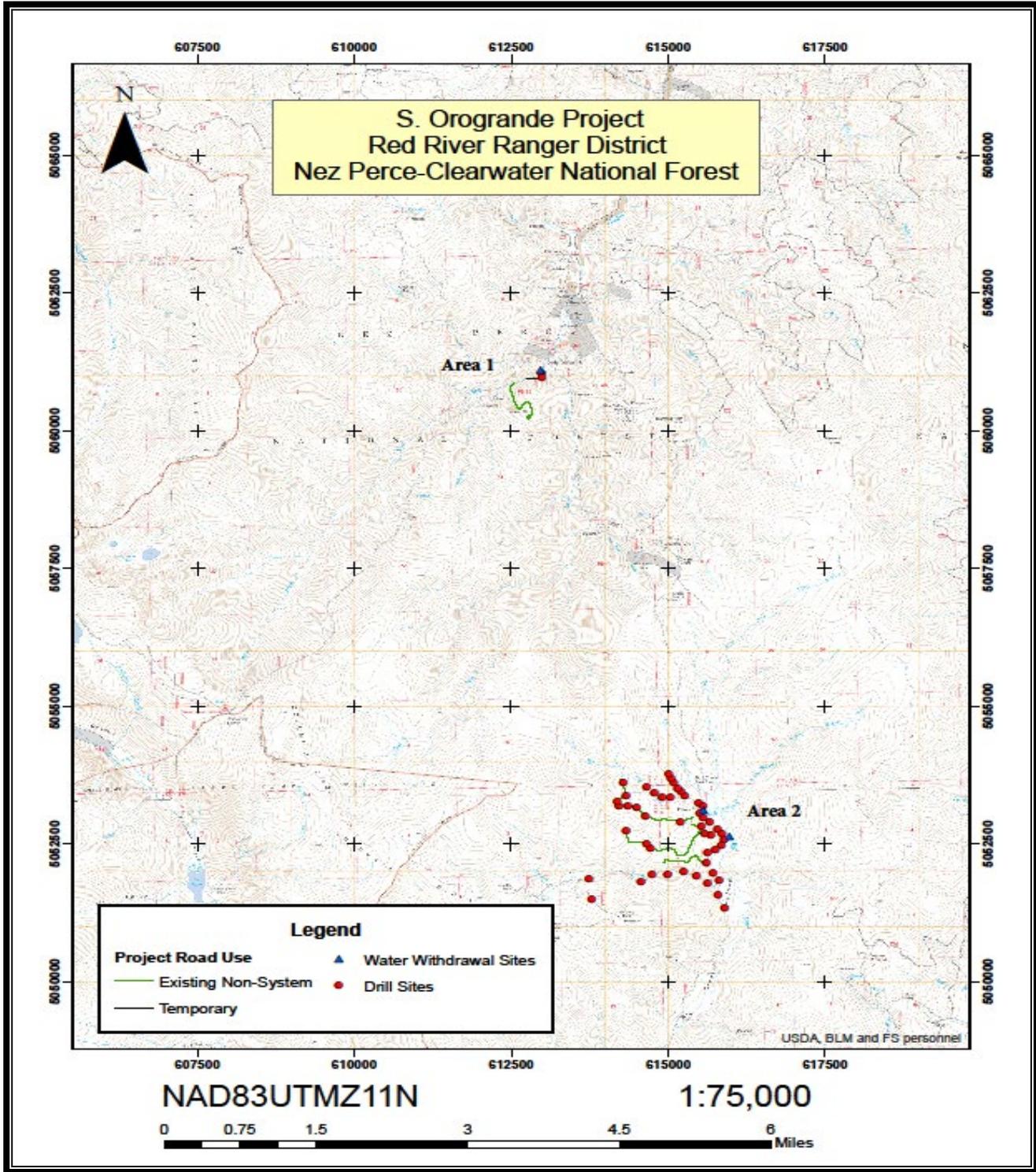
Small NEPA Scoping Letter – July 2020  
Nez Perce – Clearwater National Forests

4. Do not remove dead, dying or downed coarse woody debris from any RHCA.
5. Where feasible, incorporate the existing woody debris and vegetation located onsite into the soil to maintain organic matter content and long-term soil productivity.
6. Do not construct structures (sheds, shelters, etc.) in any wetland or floodplain within the project area.
7. If existing native surface roads are used for access, reconstruct water bars on the native surface project roads prior to the end of the operating season. Follow guidelines and typical drawings, as specified.
8. Do not remove, disturb or damage any in-stream fish habitat structure; e.g., log jam, rock cluster, etc. If necessary for prudent or safe operations to do so, notify the Forest such that the District or Forest fisheries biologist may inspect the proposed changes to fish habitat.
9. Where necessary to maintain sanitation facilities on-site, do not locate facilities closer than 50 feet to any lake, stream, river or wetland; and have spill prevention control and countermeasures so effluent from the facility does not reach any lake, stream, river or wetland.
10. If the total oil or oil products storage at a work site is to exceed 1,320 gallons or if a single container; e.g., fuel truck or trailer, exceeds a capacity of 660 gallons, the purchaser shall prepare and implement a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) Plan. The SPCC plan will meet applicable EPA requirements (40 CFR 112), including certification by a registered professional engineer. (SFP: FW-119, 120, 122).

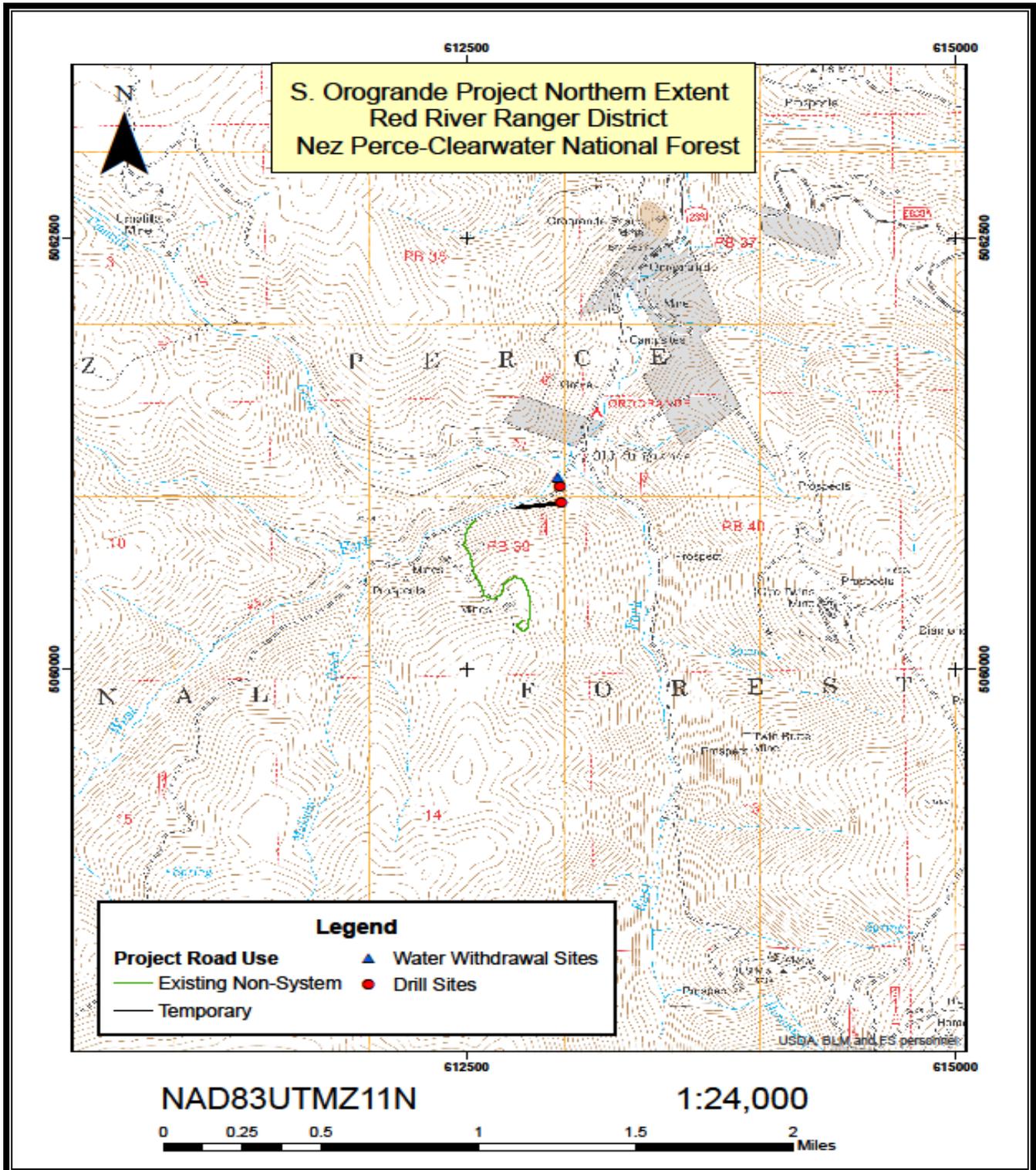
**Project Implementation:** The project is proposed to begin in 2021.

**Project Information:** Marty Jones, Minerals Administrator, (208) 983-5158, martin.jones@usda.gov

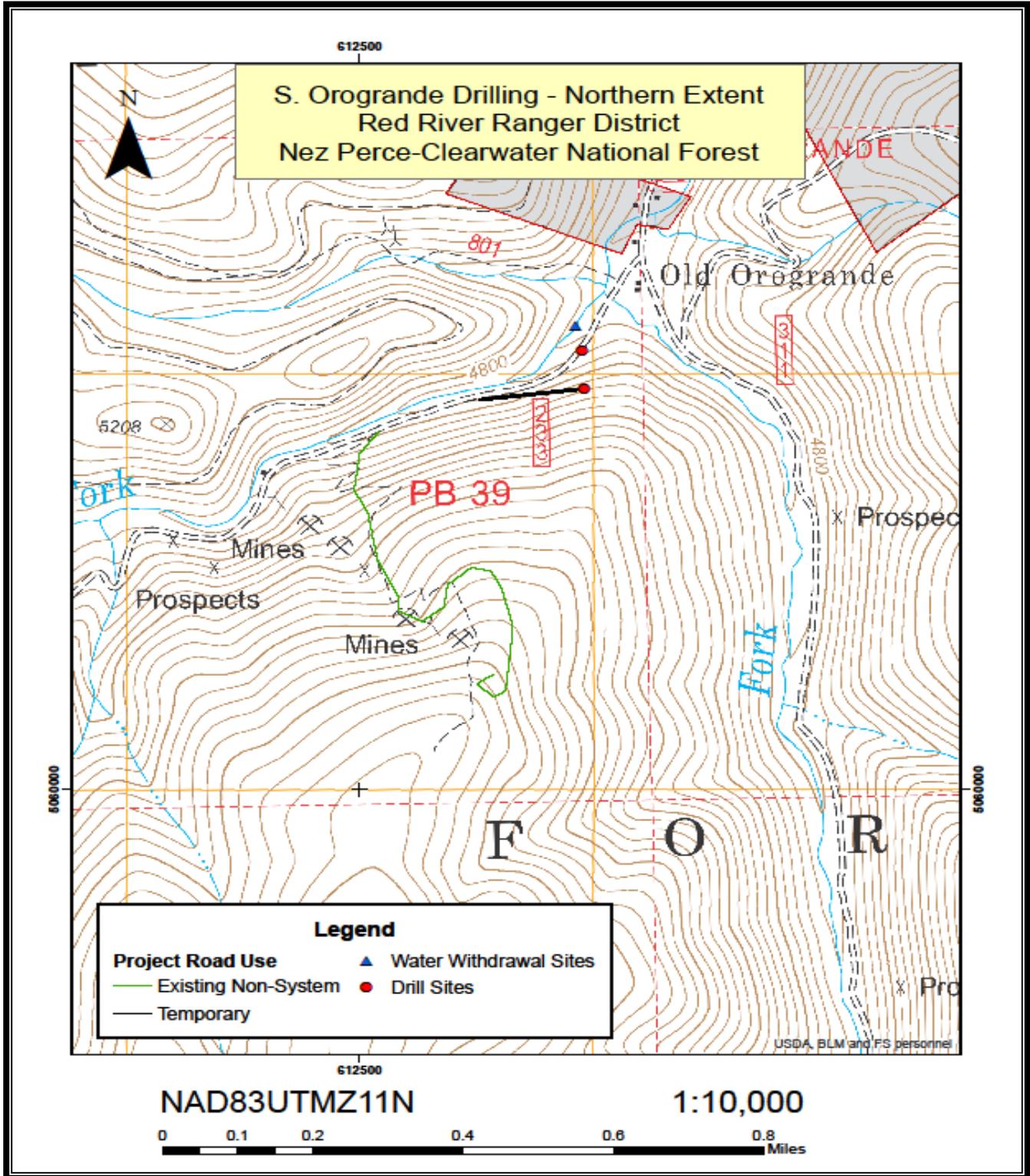
**Map 1. South Orogrande Exploration Drilling (Vicinity)**



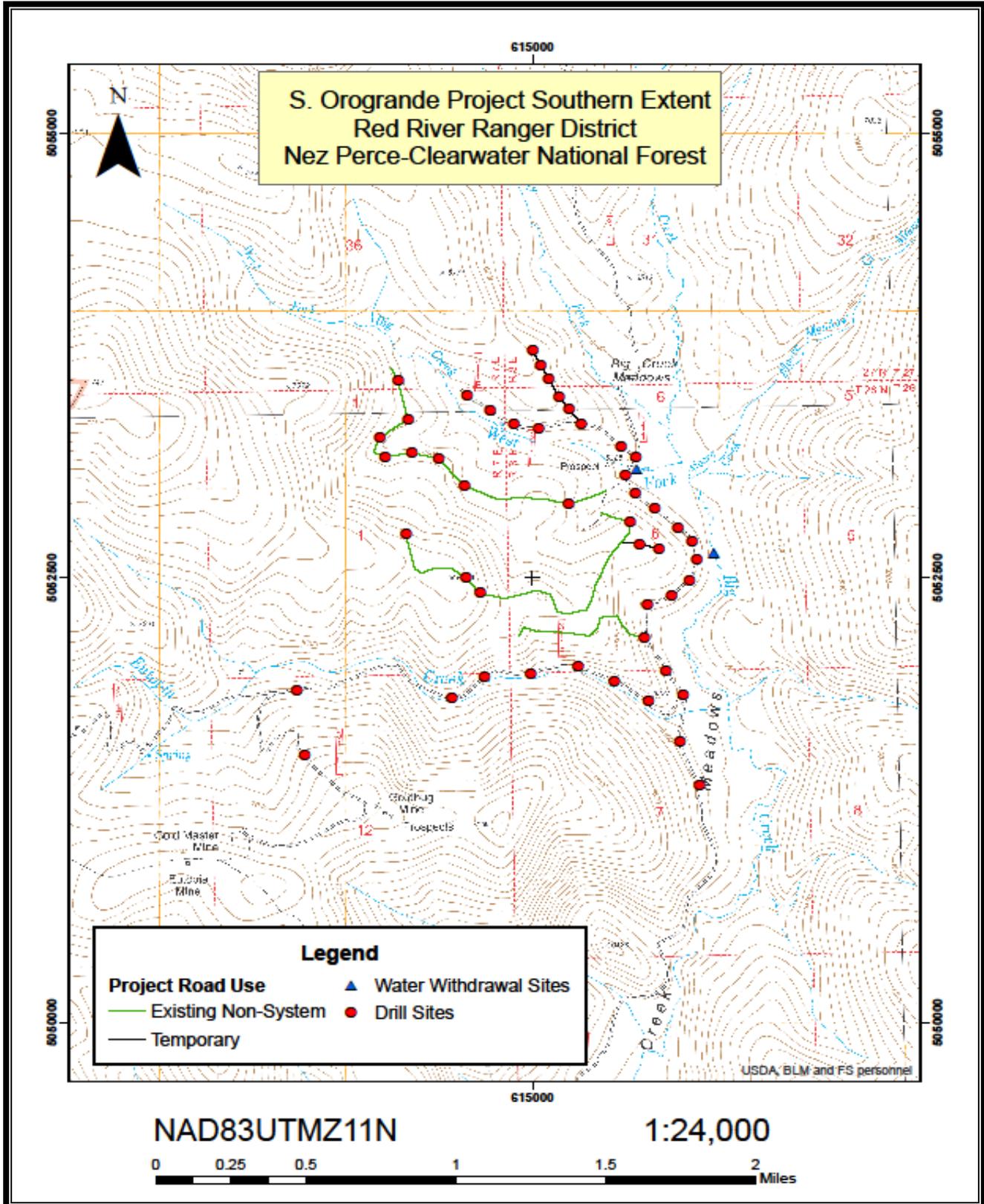
**Map 2. South Orogrande Exploration Drilling (Area 1)**



**Map 3. South Orogrande Exploration Drilling (Area 1)**



**Map 4. South Orogrande Exploration Drilling (Area 2)**



**Map 5. South Orogrande Exploration Drilling (Area 2)**

