



# **TRINITY 1-8 MINING OPERATION SHASTA-TRINITY NATIONAL FOREST DRAFT SCOPING REPORT**

**Volume 1  
Scoping Report and  
Appendices A-E**



***Prepared for:***

Trinity River Management Unit  
Shasta-Trinity National Forest



***Prepared by:***

North State Resources, Inc.

July 8, 2005



# Trinity 1-8 Mining Operation Shasta-Trinity National Forest Draft Scoping Report

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## Volume 1 Scoping Report and Appendices A-E

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***Prepared for:***

Trinity River Management Unit  
Shasta-Trinity National Forest  
c/o Weaverville Ranger Station  
210 Main Street  
Weaverville, CA

***Prepared by:***

North State Resources, Inc.  
5000 Bechelli Lane, Suite 203  
Redding, CA 96002  
(530) 222-5347  
(530) 222-4958 *fax*

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## **I. Introduction**

Federal agencies such as the USDA Forest Service (FS) must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) before approving any major federal action that may have a significant effect on the human environment. The Shasta-Trinity National Forest (STNF) has determined that NEPA compliance for the proposed Trinity 1-8 Mining Operation (proposed action) will be achieved through the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

This scoping report was prepared by North State Resources, Inc. (NSR) to assist the STNF in determining the scope of the EIS. "Scope" means the alternatives, environmental issues, and effects to be analyzed as well as the level of detail required.

Public participation is an essential part of scoping under NEPA. The scoping process is open to the public, state and local governments (including tribal governments), and affected federal agencies. Scoping continues throughout the NEPA process, providing a means of bringing together and identifying the concerns of affected federal, state, and local agencies; project proponents; and interested stakeholders in an open and objective environment.

The objectives of the scoping process are to:

- identify the concerns of the affected public and agencies;
- facilitate an efficient process for preparing the EIS;
- define the alternatives and issues that will be examined in detail in the EIS and those that will require less analysis because they cause no concern or are not substantive; and
- assist in producing a comprehensive EIS that thoroughly analyzes all pertinent issues.

One of the STNF's responsibilities as a federal land management agency is to facilitate and administer the orderly exploration, development, and production of mineral and energy resources on National Forest System lands. If approved, the proposed action would be authorized by the STNF under federal mining laws. The federal mining laws (30 USC 22) state that:

Except as otherwise provided, all valuable mineral deposits in lands belonging to the United States, both surveyed and unsurveyed, shall be free and open to exploration and purchase...

Section 3812.1 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) states:

Whatever is recognized as a mineral by the standard authorities, whether metallic or other substance, when found in public lands in quantity and

quality sufficient to render the lands valuable on account thereof, is treated as coming within the purview of the mining laws.

## II. Summary of Scoping Process and Opportunities for Public Involvement

The following is a summary of the scoping and public involvement process to date:

- April 22, 2004                      The STNF sent a letter to interested parties inviting participation in the public scoping process. The scoping letter provided an address to which comment letters could be sent and announced an informational and public comment meeting to be held on May 13, 2004, at the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) conference facility in Weaverville, California. A copy of the scoping letter is contained in Appendix A.
- May 4, 2004                         The STNF published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS on the proposed action in the Federal Register on May 4, 2004. The NOI states that the proposed mining operation would total approximately 22 acres in the vicinity of the Big East Fork and the mainstem of Canyon Creek in Trinity County, California. The NOI also describes potentially significant impacts from the project anticipated by the STNF. In addition, the NOI describes the scoping process to be followed and requests comments from agencies and the public. A copy of the NOI is contained in Appendix A.
- May 13, 2004                      A public scoping meeting was held at the CDF conference facility in Weaverville. Notice of the meeting was published in the Federal Register, and in two local newspapers, the *Trinity Journal* and the *Redding Record-Searchlight*. The purpose of the meeting was to describe the proposed action and to solicit comments from members of the public. The public meeting was facilitated by Jan Ford, an FS meeting facilitator, and recorded by Darlene Roberson, a certified court reporter. Questions from the public were answered by the project proponents, Gloria Marshall and Cullen Thomas, and by the following FS personnel: Joyce Andersen, District Ranger; James DeMaagd, Geologist and Certified Mineral Examiner; Michael Mitchell, Resource Planner and Project Leader; Sam Frink, Environmental Planner; and Larry McLean, Minerals Administrator.

An informational page describing the proposed action was posted on the STNF's web site in May 2004 (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/shastatrinity/projects/trinity-1-8.shtml>).

A dedicated phone line was created to receive verbal comments.

### **III. Review and Organization of Scoping Comments**

Comments were submitted to the STNF via written correspondence, e-mail, petitions, telephone, and oral comments presented at the public scoping meeting.

NSR used a multi-step process to identify issues of public concern. First, the scoping comments received by the STNF were sorted by type of submittal. For tracking purposes, each type of submittal was assigned a unique file identification label and each individual letter or other submittal was assigned a unique number in the order the letters were reviewed and processed. To preserve the originals, the submittals were then scanned and saved in a digital format (Adobe pdf). Next, spreadsheets were created for each type of submittal, with columns for the names and addresses of the commenters and for the various issue areas typically addressed in an FS EIS. The names of the commenters and, if available, their addresses, were entered into the spreadsheets to create a mailing list. An NSR environmental analyst then coded the specific comments in each submittal and entered the coding on the spreadsheet according to issue area.

#### *Types of Submittals*

The types of scoping submittals and the file identification labels assigned to them are as follows:

- Individual letters from government agencies and tribes (AC).
- Individual letters from non-governmental organizations (NGOs). All NGOs responding were either non-profit environmental or conservation organizations.
- Individual letters from members of the public (PC).
- Oral comments at the public scoping meeting (TR).
- Form letters sent via the Working Assets web site (WA). Working Assets is a telephone company that provides opportunities for citizen action, such as the ability to send a form letter via the web site to comment on a particular issue. Except for the signatures, the Working Assets form letters were identical to one another.
- Petitions (P). Petitions opposing the project were circulated by the Canyon Creek Coalition.
- Comments made via a dedicated telephone voice mail box at the Weaverville Ranger District (PH).

Table 1 shows the number of responses for each submittal type.

**Table 1. Number of Responses per Submittal Type**

<b>Submittal Type</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>
Individual letters from agencies and tribes	1
Individual letters from NGOs	14
Individual letters from members of the public	158
Oral comments at public scoping meeting	25
Working Assets form letter	1,506
Petition signatures	1,258
Telephone comments	412
<b>Total Submittals</b>	<b>3,255</b>

Table 2 summarizes the locations of the commenters who indicated the cities in which they reside.

**Table 2. Locations of Commenters**

	North State Counties <sup>1</sup>	Other California	Outside California	Unknown
NGOs	9	4	1	
Petitions	914	219	36	89
Public letters	105	35	7	11
Tribal letter	1			
Public scoping meeting	5			20
Working Assets	70	1,431	5	
Phone comments	5	127		380

<sup>1</sup>Humboldt, Mendocino, Siskiyou, Shasta, and Trinity Counties

### *Identification of Specific Comments and Issue Spreadsheets*

All scoping letters and other submittals were reviewed to identify specific comments. For this process, comments were defined as specific issues, questions, and concerns related to the proposed action. Each individual comment was assigned an alpha identifier. For example, the first comment in a letter from a member of the public was labeled “A,” the second was labeled “B,” etc. In some cases, several comments were grouped together in such a way that it was not possible to assign them a single alpha identifier; in these cases, more than one identifier was assigned.

As described above, Excel spreadsheets were created for each submittal type to indicate the issues contained in each scoping submittal. The first columns of the spreadsheets contain the name of each commenter. The remaining columns are for the issue areas likely to be addressed in the EIS. These issue areas were determined using the standard EIS outline used by the FS. The issue areas are as follows:

- Purpose and Need of Project
- Project Description and Alternatives
- Land Use
- Geology, Fluvial Geomorphology, and Soils
- Water Resources
- Water Quality
- Fishery Resources
- Vegetation, Wildlife, and Wetlands
- Recreation
- Socioeconomics, Population, and Housing
- Tribal Trust
- Cultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Environmental Justice
- Hazardous Materials
- Noise
- Public Services, Utilities, and Energy
- Visual Resources/Aesthetics
- Transportation and Traffic Circulation
- Cumulative Impacts
- Scoping
- Other Issues

Copies of the coded comment letters and other scoping submittals are provided in the following appendices:

- Appendix B provides copies of the coded individual letter from agencies and tribes and the corresponding spreadsheet;
- Appendix C provides copies of the coded individual letters from NGOs and the corresponding spreadsheet;
- Appendix D provides copies of the coded individual letters from members of the public and the corresponding spreadsheet;
- Appendix E provides a copy of the coded transcript from the public scoping meeting and the corresponding spreadsheet;
- Appendix F provides a copy of the coded Working Assets form letter and the corresponding spreadsheet;
- Appendix G provides copies of the petitions circulated by Canyon Creek Coalition and the corresponding spreadsheet; and
- Appendix H provides the spreadsheet for the telephone log created by the STNF.

#### **IV. Representative Scoping Comments**

Key or significant issues are intended to form the basis of the NEPA analysis. In other words, they define the scope of the analysis. Once defined, the key issues in conjunction with the purpose of and need for the proposed action will govern the range of reasonable alternatives that will be considered in the EIS.

The following section provides representative comments identified in the comment letters and other submittal types. For the most part, these comments are direct quotes from the submittals, although some of them have been slightly paraphrased for clarity. These comments are intended to assist the STNF in identifying the significant issues that will direct the development of a range of alternatives as well as the effects and mitigation measures to be analyzed in the EIS. NSR chose to include specific scoping comments in more than one issue area if necessary to appropriately consider the complete meaning of the comment.

##### **Purpose of and Need for Project**

The following comments concern the purpose of and need for the project:

- The FS should refrain from a narrowly defined “purpose and need for action” as this would limit the range of alternatives for the proposed project.

##### **Project Description and Alternatives**

The following comments concern the project description and alternatives:

###### *Project Description*

- The proposed project should comply with all visual quality standards. The proposed 40-foot buffer between the proposed project and Canyon Creek Road would be inadequate.
- The visual buffer between the proposed project and Canyon Creek Road should be at least 100 feet.
- Does the proposed project include fish screens?

###### *Alternatives*

- There should be a full range of reasonable alternatives, including the No Action Alternative to the proposed mining operation.
- The NEPA document should evaluate alternatives to the proposed mining term of 25 years.

- The NEPA document must include a full range of reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including but not limited to an alternative that would not approve surface disturbing activities until it is determined that the proposed project is a reasonable venture.
- The NEPA document must consider an alternative that would prevent the methylation of elemental mercury, and alternatives that would absolutely bar the potential release of mercury into the environment.
- The NEPA document should include an alternative that does not impact visual resources.
- The NEPA document should include an alternative that does not impact any portion of the riparian zone.
- The NEPA document needs to include an alternative that would not impact recreation activities.

### **Land Use**

The following comments concern the potential effects of the proposed action on land use:

- The NEPA document should evaluate the impacts of the proposed project on public land use.
- To what level will public access to public land be limited during mining operation?
- If the proposed project is approved, the public will be denied access to public land for approximately 25 years.
- The NEPA document needs to evaluate the potential impacts to residences that occur within the project vicinity.
- The proposed project has the potential to impact the Buddhist Center – Rigdzin Ling.

### **Geology, Fluvial Geomorphology, and Soils**

The following comments concern the potential effects of the proposed action on geology, fluvial geomorphology, and soils:

#### *Erosion and Sedimentation*

- The proposed project would take place in an area of steep slopes and geological instability.
- Storm events have the potential to cause landslides within the proposed project area.
- The scale of the proposed project, the area's topography and unstable geology will lead to sediment discharges into Canyon Creek and Trinity River.
- Timber removal will cause erosion.

### *Soils*

- The removal of 1.5 million tons of topsoil and subsoil cannot be mitigated to less than significant.

### **Water Resources**

The following comments concern the potential effects of the proposed action on water resources:

#### *Water Quantity*

- The NEPA document should evaluate the water resource impacts of drawing up to 300,000 gallons of water from the Big East Fork of Canyon Creek.
- The NEPA document should fully disclose the loss of water from Canyon Creek and Trinity River due to mining operations and provide how this loss of water will be mitigated.
- The NEPA document needs to evaluate the impacts of withdrawing water from the Big East Fork of Canyon Creek during all seasons of the year.
- The water diversion required for the proposed project would induce impacts to the already impacted Trinity River, of which flows are only 10% of normal.
- Water resource monitoring should occur during all stages of the proposed project.
- A hydrograph of the East Fork of Canyon Creek should be established in terms of flow.

#### *Flooding*

- Project implementation has the potential to flood homes below the proposed project site.

### **Water Quality**

The following comments concern the potential effects of the proposed action on water quality:

#### *Settling Ponds*

- Evaluate the potential for the settling ponds to impact water quality.
- The NEPA document needs to disclose how the settling ponds will function during all seasons of the year, specifically, how these ponds will retain water from entering and polluting surface and ground water.

#### *Water Temperature*

- Canyon Creek and Trinity River water quality would be impacted from the proposed project diverting, using, and sending warmer water back into the stream.
- Removal of riparian and forest habitat will raise the temperature of Canyon Creek.

### *Mercury*

- Master Petroleum proposes to mine as close as 100 feet from Canyon Creek, which could lead to leaching of highly toxic mercury into ground and surface water.
- The mercury that would sit in the settling ponds has the potential to become methylated when exposed to air over time.
- Previous mining activities which occurred in the Canyon Creek area have resulted in mercury and other leachates occurring within the alluvial floodplain of the creek. Project activities could reintroduce methylated mercury into the environment.
- Elemental and methyl mercury levels in Canyon Creek should be tested and monitored monthly during all stages of project implementation.

### *Other Water Quality*

- The NEPA document needs to evaluate the impacts to water quality during a 100-year flood event.
- The NEPA document should evaluate the impacts on water quality as a result of increased turbidity, dissolved solids, water temperature, and decreased stream flow as a result of project implementation.
- The acid bearing rocks from former mining activities have the potential to be released as a result of project implementation. A result of disturbing acid bearing rocks may be the introduction of sulfuric acids into Canyon Creek and Trinity River through percolation of the settling ponds.
- What safeguards are in place to prevent runoff from entering Canyon Creek?
- The proposed buffer between the proposed project and Canyon Creek should be adequate so as not to impact the water quality.

## **Fishery Resources**

The following comments concern the potential effects of the proposed action on fishery resources:

### *Fish Habitat*

- The proposed project has the potential to impact anadromous fish habitat, specifically special-status fish species which occur within Canyon Creek.
- The Forest Service must fully describe how the proposed project will ensure that the habitat of Chinook salmon, coho salmon, steelhead trout, and other imperiled aquatic species is maintained and restored.

- The scale of the proposed project, its topography and the unstable geology of the area to be mined could lead to sediment discharges into Canyon Creek, a Trinity River fish spawning area, as well as spawning areas in the Trinity River.

#### *Water Temperature*

- Removal of up to 300,000 gallons of water from the Big East Fork of Canyon Creek would reduce a source of cold water which is critical for special-status fisheries and their habitat.
- The glacial water of the Big East Fork of Canyon Creek is from the coldest tributary remaining to the increasingly compromised Trinity/Klamath River fishery.

#### *Water Quantity*

- The NEPA document should evaluate the impacts of withdrawing water on the aquatic environment and anadromous fisheries.
- Permanent water quality impairment and significant decreases in stream flow (up to 300,000 gallons per day) would impact the already sensitive anadromous fishery during critical biological periods.

#### *Mercury*

- Evaluate the impacts to fisheries from increased mercury levels.

#### *Barriers to Fish Passage*

- The proposed project has the potential to have impacts on fish migration.

#### *General Fish Issues*

- The NEPA document must fully disclose all fish species that may be impacted by the proposed project, including all surveys and other methods used to assess population levels, trends and health.
- Baseline data as to aquatic populations needs to be collected.

### **Vegetation, Wildlife, and Wetlands**

The following comments concern the potential effects of the proposed action on vegetation, wildlife, and wetlands:

#### *Wildlife Habitat*

- The NEPA document needs to analyze and describe habitat types that occur within the project vicinity (i.e., corridor habitat, breeding habitat, foraging habitat etc.) as well as the potential for significant impacts to special-status species.
- The NEPA document needs to evaluate the potential for habitat fragmentation.
- The existing Watershed Analysis states that previous mining activities have irreversibly altered riparian conditions in Canyon Creek.

- Riparian reserves provide habitat connectivity for both aquatic and terrestrial species. The Watershed Analysis fails to disclose where previous mining activities have irreversibly altered riparian land.
- The Watershed Analysis fails to disclose how riparian reserves would perform their function under further fragmentation.
- The proposed project would require the removal of creek side forest, including old growth Douglas firs.
- The NEPA document should address the impacts of water diversion and cumulative impacts to riparian habitat.
- The removal of forest vegetation has the potential to increase the temperature of the entire area.
- Previous mining sites within the proposed project area are only able to support manzanita and stunted digger pines.

*Special-Status Wildlife Species*

- The NEPA document must fully disclose all special-status species and other species that may be impacted by the proposed project, including all surveys and other methods used to assess population levels, trends and health.
- The proposed project has the potential to impact the federally threatened northern spotted owl and the proposed for listing Pacific fisher; therefore, the NEPA document must fully analyze and disclose the potential effects of the proposed project on these species.
- The NEPA document needs to evaluate if the proposed project has the potential to drive special-status species into extinction and if the proposed project would be consistent with the requirements of species recovery.
- The test pit area occurs within an LSR, which is known to support the northern spotted owl.
- Removal of spotted owl habitat should only be done under Northwest Forest Plan guidelines.

*Non Special-status Wildlife Species*

- Baseline data as to terrestrial populations needs to be collected.

*Plants*

- The NEPA document must fully analyze and disclose the potential impacts to plant species. Plant species must be surveyed in appropriate seasons.
- The NEPA document needs to include a vegetation analysis.

### *Non-Native and Invasive Plant Species*

- The NEPA document needs to disclose reclamation measures that will mitigate the spread of non-native and invasive plant species.

### **Recreation**

The following comments concern the potential effects of the proposed action on recreation:

#### *Wilderness*

- The proposed project is inconsistent with land use activities associated with public forest lands and the Trinity Alps Wilderness area.
- The proposed project may set a precedent for acceptable activities on public land, specifically within the near vicinity of a designated Wilderness area.
- The NEPA document needs to evaluate the potential for significant impacts on the scenic and ecological beauty of the Trinity Alp Wilderness area and its visitors.
- The proposed project has the potential to impact sought after solitude by Canyon Creek and Trinity Alps Wilderness users.
- Several respondents are concerned that the proposed project requires the removal of mature second-growth and remnant old growth trees adjacent to the Trinity Alps Wilderness.
- The mine proposal is located in close proximity to the Canyon Creek Trailhead.
- The proposed project has the potential to impact the recreational experience of thousands of annual visitors to the Trinity Alp Wilderness who use the Canyon Creek trailhead, the single most popular entrance to the largest and most scenic of northwest California's protected Wilderness Areas.
- Canyon Creek has the most visited trailhead users in the County, with over 1,000 Wilderness Permits issued in 2002. By the USFS count, over 3,000 people used Canyon Creek road in 2003; this is the most recent count taken.
- The NEPA document should provide an account of what constitutes the most "cost-effective" and environmentally-sound method for mining and restoration of the proposed project site and maintenance of wilderness values.

#### *Wild and Scenic River Eligibility*

- The proposed project has the potential to impact Canyon Creek's eligibility as a Wild and Scenic River.
- As proposed, this project would remove about 1.5 million tons of soil and gravel on at least 22 acres of public land, for up to 25 years, directly adjacent to Canyon Creek, an eligible Wild and Scenic River.

- The NEPA document needs to address the protection of and alternatives that do not impact Wild and Scenic River values.

#### *Recreational Activities*

- Canyon Creek is used and enjoyed by many for recreation activities, such as swimming, canoeing, camping, hiking, and fishing. The NEPA document needs to address the potential impacts to these activities.

### **Socioeconomics, Population, and Housing**

The following comments concern the potential effects of the proposed action on socioeconomics, population, and housing:

#### *Socioeconomics*

- The NEPA document needs to include an economic analysis to quantify the potential for loss of quality of life to Trinity County.
- The NEPA document needs to provide an economic analysis of environmental costs to the fishing industry (both commercial and sport) and local tourism.
- The NEPA document should analyze the economic impacts of the environmental costs to local tourism due to the blight that would be generated by this 25-year long proposed project.
- The relatively undisturbed, non-industrial and natural atmosphere of Canyon Creek adds to the economic yield generated by tourism in Trinity County. These values will be affected by the traffic generated by the proposed project.

### **Tribal Trust**

The following comments concern the potential effects of the proposed action on Tribal Trust issues:

- The NEPA document needs to evaluate potential impacts to downstream Hoopa and Yurok Indian tribes.
- Restored fisheries in the Trinity are vital to the economic and cultural strength of the Hoopa and other tribes within the region.
- The proposed project has the potential to impact Native American access to cultural areas within the project vicinity.

## **Cultural Resources**

The following comment concerns the potential effects of the proposed action on cultural resources:

- A cultural survey needs to be conducted for the proposed project.

## **Air Quality**

The following comments concern the potential effects of the proposed action on air quality:

### *Particulate Matter*

- The NEPA document needs to evaluate the potential for significant impacts to air quality due to soil and vegetation disturbance and increased truck traffic on Canyon Creek Road.
- Operation of project machinery will create dust; this has a potential to impact air quality.
- Stockpiled overburden should be maintained with a cover crop to reduce windblown soil.

### *Asbestos, Mercury, and Arsenic*

- The proposed project lies in a region of ultramafic rock formations and may have asbestos issues.
- The process of mining for gold has the potential to release mercury and arsenic which has the potential to pollute the air.

### *Other Air Pollutants*

- Transportation of material to and from the proposed project site along Canyon Creek has the potential to impact air quality and thus Canyon Creek users and nearby residences.

## **Environmental Justice**

The following comment concerns the potential of the proposed action to affect environmental justice issues:

- The NEPA document should analyze the economic impacts of the environmental costs to local tourism due to the blight that would be generated by this 25-year long proposed project.

## **Hazardous Materials**

The following comment concerns the potential of the proposed action to create hazardous materials effects:

- The proposed project lies in a region of ultramafic rock formations and may have asbestos issues.

## **Noise**

The following comments concern the potential of the proposed action to create noise effects:

### *Noise from Mining Operations*

- The NEPA document needs to disclose what noise levels will occur during operation hours of the proposed project.

### *Traffic Noise*

- The NEPA document needs to evaluate the potential for noise impacts as a result of increased truck traffic on Canyon Creek Road.

### *Disturbance to Wildlife*

- The NEPA document needs to evaluate the proposed project's potential to impact wildlife as a result of elevated noise during project operation.
- The noise created by the proposed project has the potential to impact bat and moth species.

### *Disturbance to Wilderness Users*

- The proposed project mining equipment has the potential to create noise pollution and impact the serene quality within the Canyon Creek and Trinity Alps Wilderness Area.
- The proposed project mining equipment has the potential to create noise pollution and therefore have an impact on recreation activities along Canyon Creek.

### *Disturbance to Nearby Residences*

- What are the potential noise impacts to residences that occur in the vicinity of the proposed project site?

## **Public Services, Utilities, and Energy**

There were no comments concerning public services, utilities, and energy.

## **Visual Resources/Aesthetics**

The following comments concern the potential effects of the proposed action on visual resources and aesthetic values:

- The NEPA document needs to evaluate the potential impacts on visual and scenic values of Canyon Creek Road being designated as a county Scenic Roadway.

- The NEPA document should evaluate an adequate visual buffer surrounding the proposed project area.
- The NEPA document needs to evaluate the potential for blight occurring as a result of project implementation near the vicinity of a wilderness trailhead.

### **Transportation and Traffic Circulation**

The following comments concern the potential effects of the proposed action on transportation and traffic circulation:

#### *Traffic Circulation*

- The NEPA document needs to evaluate the potential impacts on transportation and traffic circulation within the project area.
- The NEPA document needs to evaluate the potential for significant impacts due to road building and increased truck traffic on Canyon Creek Road.
- The NEPA document must address how traffic on the roads to a popular wilderness trailhead for Canyon Creek will be affected. What changes in traffic patterns are to be expected?

#### *Road Building and Maintenance Costs*

- What road maintenance will be required as a result of the project? Who will bear those costs?
- Trinity County already has budget issues with regards to road maintenance. How much heavy equipment and transportation of earth can Canyon Creek Road and the old bridges support?
- Trinity County residents should not be responsible for providing the proposed project with new truck crossing and speed limit road signs.
- An official evaluation by the Trinity County Road Department as to the potential impacts and cost of repairs needs to take place prior to project approval.

#### *Safety*

- The increased truck traffic as a result of project implementation has the potential to be a safety hazard to other users of Canyon Creek Road (i.e., pedestrians, school children, neighborhood commuters, etc.).
- The NEPA document needs to evaluate potential hazards and conflict between non-motorized traffic and mine equipment and haul trucks within the vicinity of the proposed project.

### *Other*

- The increased truck traffic and excavation of the project area have the potential to affect the stability of Canyon Creek walls.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

The following comments concern the potential for the proposed action to result in cumulative impacts:

#### *Cultural Resources*

- The proposed project needs to evaluate the cumulative impacts to cultural resources.

#### *Mining, Roads, Logging, Recreation, Water Quality, and Wildlife*

- The NEPA document needs to include a full cumulative impacts analysis of all past, present and future foreseeable actions within Canyon Creek and the Trinity River system in terms of mining, roadbuilding, logging, recreation, water quality, aquatic and terrestrial wildlife.

#### *Riparian Habitat*

- The NEPA document should address the impacts of water diversion and cumulative impacts to riparian habitat.

#### *Mercury*

- Previous mining activities which occurred in the Canyon Creek area have resulted in mercury and other leachates occurring within the alluvial floodplain of creek. Project activities could re-introduce methylated mercury into the environment.

#### *Mining*

- The test pit must be considered as a part of the NEPA documentation, analysis, and disclosure of the cumulative impacts of the proposed project.
- The Forest Service must disclose and analyze the cumulative effects of the proposed project in combination with the impacts of historical mining, current mining, and projected mining activities.
- Because of the extent of historic and recent mining along Canyon Creek and the possible implementation of this and future similar proposals, an analysis of overall present and predictable future cumulative effects must be made and displayed.
- The scope and magnitude of the project outlined in the scoping document combined with past impacts in the watershed from logging, grazing, road building, and recreation will certainly result in significant adverse environmental impacts.

- The connected actions and the past, present and future activities on federal and adjacent private land must be considered in the NEPA document. They need to be considered as they relate to all issues and resources of concern.

#### *Traffic*

- The connected actions and the past, present and future activities on federal and adjacent private land must be considered in the NEPA document. They need to be considered as they relate to road building, renovation and upgrading.
- The NEPA document needs to include a full cumulative effects analysis of all past, present and future foreseeable actions within Canyon Creek and the Trinity River system in terms of roadbuilding.
- Roads and access management are the highest priority for addressing watershed impacts.

#### **Forest Plan**

##### *Policy Issues*

- Logging activities associated with the proposed project may or may not be within an inventoried roadless area; however, these logging activities may be located directly adjacent to these roadless areas.
- The Forest Service needs to integrate the Aquatic Conservation Strategy and accompanying standards and guidelines in the LRMP into the NEPA document.
- The NEPA document needs to disclose how the removal of water from the East Fork of Canyon Creek will be consistent with the Aquatic Conservation Strategy.
- The volume of water proposed to be withdrawn from the East Fork of Canyon Creek needs to be in compliance with the federal and state Wild and Scenic Rivers program and the Aquatic Conservation Strategy.
- The Forest Service must fully describe how the proposed project will ensure that the goals and objectives of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy are achieved.
- The Forest Service must fully describe how the proposed project will ensure that riparian reserves are protected, the goals and objectives of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy are achieved, and the habitat of Chinook salmon, coho salmon, steelhead trout, and other imperiled aquatic species is maintained and restored.
- LSR objectives, standards, and guidelines for protection of late-successional and old-growth habitat and associated species must be addressed in the NEPA document.
- The NEPA document needs to address how the proposed project will be consistent with the Trinity River Restoration Program and the federal and state Wild and Scenic River program.

- Removal of spotted owl habitat should only be done under Northwest Forest Plan guidelines.

#### *Resource Issues*

- The scoping document discloses that the removal of timber and soils and operation of the proposed project would occur within 150 feet of Canyon Creek. Federal requirements call for a riparian set back of at least 300 feet.
- The existing watershed analysis for the proposed project is too general and is inadequate for the scope of the project; a new watershed analysis should be conducted for the NEPA document.
- The watershed analysis for Canyon Creek should be incorporated into the NEPA document for the proposed project.
- The watershed analysis should be complete and updated to account for the effects of the proposed project.
- A full-year watershed analysis should be conducted for the East Fork of Canyon Creek.

#### **Other Regulatory Requirements**

##### *California Endangered Species Act*

- How will the proposed project affect the California goals for recovery of the coho salmon?
- The NEPA document needs to analyze, and disclose the potential for impacts to salmonid recovery.

##### *Federal and State Clean Air Acts*

- The Forest Service should complete an application with the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District for a permit as required by the Asbestos ATCM of 2002.

##### *Clean Water Act*

- The NEPA document needs to disclose how the proposed project would comply with the Clean Water Act.
- The proposed project needs to be in full compliance with the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

##### *Trinity River Restoration Program – Bureau of Reclamation*

- The proposed project has the potential to have significant impacts on the Trinity River Restoration Program.
- The NEPA document needs to address how the proposed project will be consistent with the Trinity River Restoration Program and the federal and state Wild and Scenic River program.

- The proposed project is inconsistent with the Trinity River Restoration Program.
- The fisheries of the Trinity River, potentially worth millions of dollars annually, are the focus of a multi-generation federal project to restore flows and ecological health to the Trinity River which has cost at least \$150 million to date.

#### *Miscellaneous*

- Permitting the proposed project has the potential to be in direct conflict with the efforts of federal, state, and local agencies.

#### **Other Comments**

The following comments concern “other” issues:

#### *Human Health*

- The NEPA document should include a full health risk assessment for the proposed project; it should evaluate the potential for impacts from introducing suspended mercury in the aquatic environment, and should fully disclose all of the health risks associated with ingesting water, fish, plant material, or in any way being exposed to elevated levels of mercury.
- The proposed mining project has the potential to impact the health of people who live, work, and recreate within the vicinity of the proposed project.
- The NEPA document must fully analyze the methylated and elemental mercury that may be produced as a result of project implementation and disclose the risks to human and animal health, including reproductive success and nervous system development.
- The proposed project has the potential to cause health risks, such as neurological effects due to mercury exposure, the most vulnerable population being pregnant women and children.

#### *Monitoring*

- The NEPA document should disclose all aspects of project monitoring measures.
- Continual project monitoring must determine that water quality in the Trinity River is not impacted as a result of project implementation.

#### *Reclamation Bond*

- The reclamation bond should be both liquid and adequate enough to cover all foreseen and unforeseen reclamation activities.
- The proposed reclamation bond is highly unrealistic and insufficient. Reclamation of the proposed project should not become the responsibility of taxpayers.

### *Site Rehabilitation*

- Without a vast amount of funding for site rehabilitation and a multi-decade commitment, it is unlikely that the project site can be adequately rehabilitated.
- The NEPA document needs to include a clear and specific reclamation plan.
- Other mining sites in the Canyon Creek area have been unable to recover from mining activities. How will reclamation activities for this proposed mining project differ from past mining operations?
- The Blue Bird Mine illustrates evidence of inability to rehabilitate through reclamation activities.
- The NEPA document needs to address the potential inability of site-cleanup of hazardous materials.
- The reclamation description needs to include detailed information on the complete restoration of the site and bioremediation of mercury and other leachates in the soil.

### *Spiritual Concerns*

- The proposed project has the potential to impact those who visit Canyon Creek for spiritual and cultural purposes.

### *Logging*

- The NEPA document needs to analyze the potential affects from logging the proposed project site.

## **Scoping Letter/Notice of Intent**

The following comments concern the scoping letter and the NOI:

- The full scope of the proposed project disclosed in the NOI is insufficient; the NEPA document needs to disclose the full scope of the proposed project.
- The scoping letter provides minimal information and fails to adequately describe the proposed project, its purpose and need, or the decision being made by the Forest Service.
- The Public Scoping Letter was not clear on the location of the proposed mining pits.

## **Oppose Project**

Most commenters indicated their opposition to the proposed project for a variety of reasons.

## **Mailing List**

Many commenters indicated a desire to receive project updates.

## **V. Issues Derived from Scoping Comments**

This section of the Scoping Report provides a list of issues derived from the scoping comments on the proposed action. The FS defines issues as areas of discussion, debate, or dispute about the environmental effects of a proposed action. Although some of the issues would not be considered significant under NEPA, they can be used to determine the scope of the EIS as well as the level of detail required.

Like the representative scoping comments listed in Section IV, the issues listed below are organized by the resource areas typically addressed in an EIS prepared by the FS.

### **Land Use**

The proposed action could restrict access to public land.

The proposed action could affect residences in the project vicinity.

### **Geology, Fluvial Geomorphology, and Soils**

The proposed action could lead to sediment discharges into Canyon Creek and, ultimately, the Trinity River.

The proposed action could increase erosion.

### **Water Resources**

The proposed action could result in changes to the flow regime of Canyon Creek and the Trinity River.

The proposed action could result in flooding of homes below the project site.

### **Water Quality**

The proposed action could cause increased sediment in Canyon Creek and the Trinity River.

The proposed action could cause groundwater pollution as well as surface water pollution in Canyon Creek and the Trinity River.

The proposed action could cause higher water temperatures in Canyon Creek and the Trinity River.

### **Fishery Resources**

The proposed action could affect habitat for special-status fish species occurring in Canyon Creek and the Trinity River.

The proposed action could create a barrier to fish passage.

The proposed action could result in fish becoming entrained in the water diversion pipeline.

### **Vegetation, Wildlife, and Wetlands**

The proposed action could result in fragmentation of habitat for wildlife species.

The proposed action could result in the removal of old-growth forest.

The proposed action could affect special-status species (e.g., northern spotted owl, Pacific fisher, plant species).

The proposed project could result in the spread of non-native and invasive plant species.

### **Socioeconomics, Population, and Housing**

The proposed action could have an economic effect on the fishing industry.

The proposed action could have an economic effect on Trinity County due to a loss of tourism.

### **Tribal Trust**

The proposed action could affect the trust assets of the Hoopa and Yurok tribes.

### **Cultural Resources**

The proposed action could affect cultural resources in the project area.

### **Air Quality**

The proposed action could affect air quality.

### **Hazardous Materials**

The proposed action could result in asbestos emissions.

### **Noise**

The proposed action could cause noise impacts to nearby residences.

Noise from the proposed action could affect wilderness values in the Trinity Alps Wilderness.

Noise from the proposed action could affect recreationists in the Canyon Creek area.

Noise from the proposed action could disturb wildlife.

### **Visual Resources/Aesthetics**

The proposed action could affect scenic values in the Trinity Alps Wilderness.

The proposed action could affect scenic values along Canyon Creek Road.

### **Transportation and Traffic Circulation**

The proposed action could affect traffic circulation in the project vicinity.

The proposed action could contribute to the deterioration of roads and bridges in the project vicinity.

Increased truck traffic as a result of the proposed action could pose a safety hazard to other users of Canyon Creek Road.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

The proposed action could result in cumulative impacts related to past mining activities in the project vicinity.

The proposed action could result in cumulative impacts related to loss of riparian habitat.

The proposed action could result in cumulative impacts related to cultural resources.

The proposed action could cause soil erosion or slope failure, which could cause an increase in sediment in the streams, contributing to cumulative effects to water quality.

### **Other Considerations for the EIS**

The following are other issues that will need to be addressed as part of the NEPA process.

#### *Forest Plan*

The proposed action could affect roadless areas.

The proposed action could be inconsistent with the Aquatic Conservation Strategy.

The proposed action could be inconsistent with guidelines for riparian reserves.

The proposed action could be inconsistent with guidelines for late successional reserves.

The proposed action could affect the eligibility of Canyon Creek to be designated a Wild and Scenic River.

The proposed action could be inconsistent with Northwest Forest Plan guidelines for northern spotted owl habitat.

*Other Regulatory Requirements*

The proposed action could conflict with California goals for the recovery of coho salmon under the California Endangered Species Act.

The proposed action could be inconsistent with the Clean Water Act.

The proposed action could conflict with the efforts of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Trinity River Restoration Program to restore the Trinity River.

*Other Issues*

The proposed action could result in human health affects from mercury.

The reclamation bond for the proposed action may be insufficient to cover required reclamation activities.

The reclamation plan for the proposed action may not be successful in restoring the mining site.

The proposed action could affect those who visit Canyon Creek for spiritual purposes.

**APPENDIX A**

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**Scoping Letter and Notice of Intent**



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Shasta-Trinity  
National Forest  
Weaverville Station

P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093  
(530)623-2121  
(530)623-2124 - TDD  
<http://www.r5.fs.fed.us/shastatri>

File Code: 2810

Date: April 22, 2004

Dear Interested Party:

The Shasta-Trinity National Forest is proposing to authorize open mining on approximately 22 acres on National Forest lands on the Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims, CAMC # 605515. Forest Service personnel are preparing to conduct National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis of the proposed project within the Canyon Creek watershed about nine miles North of the community of Junction City. The legal location is: T.35N., R.10W., Section 30, Mount Diablo Meridian. Please see the enclosed map for a general location of the proposed permit area.

## **YOUR INVOLVEMENT**

The purpose of this letter is to invite you to participate in the environmental analysis by providing your comments about this proposal during what is referred to as the public scoping process. If you have information you believe the Forest Service may not be aware of, or if you have issues (points of dispute, debate, or disagreement) regarding potential effects of this proposed action, please send those issues in writing to the project leader (Mike Mitchell, Weaverville Ranger Station, P.O. Box 1190, Weaverville, CA 96093 (530) 623-1760 on or before May 18, 2004. An informational and public comment meeting will be held on May 13, 2004 at 6:30 P.M. at the Weaverville Fire Department for all interested parties. We will use any significant issues that are identified to develop alternatives to the Proposed Action.

## **PROPOSED ACTION**

The Forest Service proposes to authorize open pit mining of 22 acres in the Canyon Creek Watershed of the Trinity River Management Unit of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. This is a high bench placer mining operation. The proposal is to remove vegetation, stockpile topsoil for



reclamation, remove and process valuable placer deposits down to bedrock, replace processed waste in excavation and reclaim the site. It is estimated that the operation will process approximately 1.4 million tons of gold bearing placer gravels from 22 acres from 5 to 25-years.

#### **PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION**

The purpose of the project is to extract locatable minerals (valuable mineral deposits) while providing resource protection on National Forest System lands as authorized by the United States mining laws of May 10, 1872, as amended (30 U.S.C.21-54), which confer a statutory right to enter upon the public lands to search for minerals.

#### **DECISION TO BE MADE**

The decision to be made is whether to authorize the proposed Plan of Operation as proposed, or proceed as modified by an alternative. Also, I will decide which recommended mitigation measures and monitoring requirements will be applied.



JOYCE ANDERSEN

District Ranger



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## Big Bar Ranger District of the Trinity River Management Unit; Shasta-Trinity National Forest; California; Trinity 1-8 Mining Operation

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[Federal Register: May 4, 2004 (Volume 69, Number 86)]  
 [Notices]  
 [Page 24558-24559]  
 From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access [wais.access.gpo.gov]  
 [DOCID:fr04my04-21]

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 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 Forest Service

Big Bar Ranger District of the Trinity River Management Unit;  
 Shasta-Trinity National Forest; California; Trinity 1-8 Mining Operation

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.  
 ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement

-----  
 SUMMARY: A Plan of Operation has been submitted by Master petroleum Inc., for the purpose of mining for gold within the Trinity 1-8 Planning Mining Claim. The proposal is to mine within Trinity County from five sites totaling about 22 acres in the vicinity of Big East Fork and Canyon Creeks.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by May 20, 2004. The draft environmental impact statement is expected in February, 2005, and the final environmental impact statement is expected in May, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Mike Mitchell, Supervisory Natural Resource Officer, c/o USFS, PO Box 1190, Weaverville, CA 96093. For further information, mail correspondence to Mike Mitchell, Supervisory Natural Resource Officer, c/o USFS, PO Box 1190, Weaverville, CA 96093.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Larry McLean, USFS Minerals Office, phone 530-623-1767.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of the project is to extract locatable minerals

(valuable mineral deposits) while providing resource protection on National Forest System lands as authorized by the United States mineral laws of May 10, 1872, as amended (30 U.S.C. 21-54), which confer a statutory right to enter upon the public lands to search for minerals.

#### Proposed Action

The proposed action is to approve the Plan of Operations submitted by Master petroleum, Inc. to open pit mine about 22 acres of National Forest Lands on the Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims, CAMC #605515. This is a high bench placer mining operation. The plan is to remove vegetation, stockpile topsoil for reclamation, remove process valuable placer deposits down to bedrock, replace processed waste in excavation, and reclaim the site. It is estimated that the operation will process approximately 1,138,478 tons of gold bearing placer gravels from about 22 acres over a 25-year period. The Project is located at the confluence of Canyon Creek and the Big East Fork Canyon Creek off Canyon Creek Road. Legal description is; T.35N., R.10W., Section 30, Mount Diablo Meridian.

#### Responsible Official

Joyce Andersen, District Ranger, c/o USFS, PO Box 1190, Weaverville, CA 96093.

#### Nature of Decision To Be Made

The District Ranger will decide whether the proposed action will proceed as proposed or as modified by an alternative. Also, she will decide which recommended mitigation measures and monitoring requirements will be applied.

#### Scoping Process

The Forest Service will advertise the proposal in the Trinity Journal and Record Searchlight, newspapers of general distribution project will be listed in the Shasta-Trinity Forest Quarterly NEPA calendar. Adjacent landowners, known interested parties, and government agencies will be sent letters describing the project and identifying the project timeframe. Scoping comments are requested by May 20, 2004. A public meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2004, in the Weaverville Hall.

#### Preliminary Issues

Issues will be identified as a result of scoping. At this time project planners expect removal of vegetative cover, visual quality and water quality concerns to be voiced in the scoping process.

#### Comment Requested

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process which guides the development of the environmental impact statement. The Forest Service is seeking information that planners may not be aware of, or issues (points of dispute, debate concern, or disagreement) regarding potential effects of the proposal to authorize mining on Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims.

#### Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review

A draft environmental impact statement will be prepared for comment. The comment period on the draft environmental impact statement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the Federal Register.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewer draft environmental impact statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 513 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at draft environmental impact statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 638 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45 day comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be as specific as possible. Comments also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft environmental impact statement or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who submitted comments, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available for public inspection.

[[Page 24559]]

(Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22; Forest Service Handbook 1900.1-2 Section 21.)

Dated: April 23, 2004.  
Joyce Andersen,  
District Ranger.  
[FR Doc. 04-10017 Filed 5-3-04; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

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Last updated on Thursday, March 24th, 2005  
URL: file:///F:/Projects/50597%20EIS%20Support%20Trinity%201-8%20Mine/FS%20Scoping%20Docs/NOI%20Federal%20Register.htm

## APPENDIX B

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# Agency and Tribal Letters and Spreadsheet



# Table Bluff Reservation Wiyot Tribe

May 18, 2004

Mike Mitchell, Project Leader  
Weaverville Ranger Station  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Re: Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims [I am opposed] to the project, and request that you consider the following:

1. The environmental and health impacts are so destructive and significant that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should be required. What is the full scope of the project? The name of the project implies that there may be additional phases. We request that all project activities be analyzed in one NEPA document. [B]
2. The EIS should include a full range of alternatives, including the no action alternative, and complete restoration of the site and bioremediation of mercury and other leachates in the soil as part of all alternatives, rather than allowing further destructive mining to occur. All alternative should require full remediation and that a bond be posted for all mining activities to ensure that the site is cleaned up and properly restored after mining activities are completed. [B C]
3. The EIS should include an alternative that does not impact any portion of the riparian zone, and instead concentrates all mining activities away from the riparian area, as well as alternatives that do not impact visual qualities, scenery, and Wild and Scenic River values. [B D E F]
4. The EIS should include an alternative that limits mining activities to 3 years, rather than the proposed action that would allow mining for 25 years, and an alternative that considers limiting the size of the operation to five tons. [B]
5. The EIS should include an economic analysis of the environmental costs to the fishing industry and local tourism because of the increased levels of toxic suspended sediment in Canyon Creek and the Trinity River and the ugly blight that will be created on the way to a popular wilderness trailhead. [B G H E F]
6. The EIS should include a full cumulative effects analysis of all past, present and future foreseeable actions within Canyon Creek and within the Trinity River system in terms of

LETTER AC 1-1



# Table Bluff Reservation Wiyot Tribe

mining, road-building, logging, and recreation and their impacts on water quality, aquatic and terrestrial wildlife. **BIJKLM**

**7.** The EIS should include a full health risk assessment for the project, including impacts from re-suspending mercury in the aquatic environment through soil disturbance, and should fully disclose all of the health risks associated with ingesting water, fish, plant material, or in any way being exposed to elevated levels of mercury as a result of the project. **BNO**

**8.** The EIS should disclose if any water withdrawals will be required from Canyon Creek as part of mining activities, and the impacts these withdrawals may have on the aquatic environment and anadromous fisheries. **BPQR**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dylan Gray  
Environmental Specialist I

# Appendix B - Summary of Tribal Comments

AC#	Agency	Comment Date	Purpose & Need of Project	Project Description & Alternatives	Land Use	Geology, Fluvial Geomorphology & Soils	Water Resources	Water Quality	Fishery Resources	Vegetation, Wildlife, & Wetlands	Recreation	Socioeconomics, Population, & Housing	Tribal Trust	Cultural Resources	Air Quality	Environmental Justice	Hazardous Materials	Noise	Public Services, Utilities & Energy	Visual/Aesthetics	Transportation & Traffic	Cumulative Impacts	Scoping	Other Comments	Oppose Project	Mailing List
1	Table Bluff Reservation Wiyot Tribe	5/21/04	B			P	H, L	M, R	D, K, Q	F	G, O					C, Z			E	J	I			A		
<b>TOTAL-NON BLANKS</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	

## APPENDIX C

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# Letters from Non-Governmental Organizations and Spreadsheet

Michael Mitchell  
Trinity River Management Unit  
Shasta-Trinity National Forest  
Weaverville Ranger District  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093



August 26, 2004

**RE: Scoping Comments for Trinity 1-8 Mine DEIS**

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

The Environmental Protection Information Center (“EPIC”) and Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center (“KS Wild”) submit the following comments to the Forest Service for consideration and inclusion in the EIS being prepared for the proposed “Trinity 1-8” placer mining project around the confluence of Canyon Creek and the Big East Fork of Canyon Creek.

EPIC is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to the preservation, protection, and restoration of biodiversity, native species, watersheds and natural ecosystems in northern California. EPIC has over 3,000 members throughout northern California, and maintains offices in Humboldt County, California. KS Wild is a non-profit, tax-exempt, public interest conservation organization dedicated to conserving the globally outstanding biological diversity of the Klamath-Siskiyou region of southern Oregon and northern California. KS Wild maintains offices in Jackson and Josephine Counties in southwestern Oregon. As part of its organizational mission, KS Wild seeks to protect the ecological integrity of the region’s forests and watersheds, including those affected by the proposed Canyon Creek Gold Mine operations.

Both EPIC and KS Wild’s members and staff have and will continue to visit and use the Trinity River, Canyon Creek and the Big East Fork, and the Trinity Alps Wilderness, including the Canyon Creek trailhead, for recreational, scientific, cultural, and spiritual purposes. We are extremely concerned that the proposed gold mine could negatively affect the important public resources present in the area, not least among them the fish, wildlife, and forest.

**1. General comments**

Although the full scope in time and space remain ill-defined, the proposed project would operate over at least 25 years, and would directly affect at least 30 acres of national forest land. The project proposes to use hundreds of thousands of gallons of water annually, to be taken from the Big East Fork of Canyon Creek. By water diversions, sediment production, and potential mercury and other toxic material discharge, the project is likely to affect the anadromous fisheries of Canyon Creek, which are the focus of the Shasta-Trinity Forest Plan’s classification of Canyon Creek as “recommended” for protection under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Both these fish and various species of forest wildlife likely to be affected by the proposed project are either listed or proposed for listing under federal and state Endangered Species programs.

AB

The fisheries of the Trinity River, potentially worth millions of dollars annually, are the focus of a multi-generation federal project to restore flows and ecological health to the Trinity River which has cost at least \$150 million to date. Restored fisheries in the Trinity are vital both to the restoration of ecological health to the region and to the restoration of economic and cultural strength to the Hoopa and other tribes of the region, who have depended on these fisheries for millenia. To risk the sacrifice of these runs for the sake of a highly speculative and environmentally risky gold mine project, whose benefits will inure entirely to private investors, would be the height of irresponsibility and a betrayal by the US government of both its treaty and its public trust responsibilities.

DEFGH

For reasons that include these potential impacts, and those outlined below, EPIC is opposed to the approval and operation of the proposed mine and extremely concerned that the Forest Service fully document and analyze the potential impacts of the proposed mine, as required by NEPA and NFMA, in order that the public and the agency be fully informed prior to any decision on this matter.

## 2. Cumulative Impacts and the Special Values of Canyon Creek, Big East Fork Canyon Creek, and the Trinity River

Canyon Creek is one of the larger and colder creeks feeding the Trinity River; it is designated a Tier 1 key watershed under the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP) for its importance as a salmonid recovery area, which means essentially that no project should go forward in the area if it conflicts with salmonid recovery. The DEIS should fully document, analyze and disclose the importance of Canyon Creek and its fisheries to the greater Trinity River, including water quantity and quality, flow regimes, mineral content, genetic variation and integrity and any other variables relevant to river, species, and ecosystem health.

Effects on Canyon Creek and Big East Fork Canyon Creek must be considered in light of the hydraulic and placer mining history of the watershed, which has left relatively little of the lower Canyon Creek watershed intact and resulted on ongoing impacts to the forests, fish, wildlife and watershed of the area. The relatively intact forest areas of the upper watershed, including particularly the old-growth and mature forests around the confluence of Canyon and Big East Fork creeks where the proposed mine would be located, are particularly important to fish, wildlife, and forest health in the area because they are relatively intact and ecologically functional. The cold, clean water from Canyon Creek and Big East Fork Canyon Creek are particularly important to the recovering fisheries of the Trinity River.

The EIS must document, analyze, and disclose the economic importance of Canyon Creek, including its use by wilderness hikers using the popular Canyon Creek trailhead, commercial and sport fishers, and rafters and other recreational boaters.

The Forest Service must document, analyze, and disclose the potential impacts of the proposed project, including direct, indirect, and reasonably foreseeable future effects of the project. Such thorough review is essential to insuring that the agency and the public can take a fully informed “hard look” at the proposed project in light of all of its potential effects.

Cumulative impacts are impacts on the environment, which result from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person

undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

The connected actions and the past, present and future activities on federal and adjacent private land must be considered in the EIS. They need to be considered as they relate to all issues and resources of concern. Road building, renovation and upgrading, timber sales, cattle grazing, other mining, and private land use are some of the activities you need to take a hard look at. Sensitive species, water quality and quantity (peak versus base flow), cultural resources, soils, habitat connectivity, and many other issues of concern (which the ID team will undoubtedly identify) need to be addressed in the cumulative effects analysis. K

### 3. **Under NEPA, effects analysis may not be segmented**

The Forest Service has already issued a Categorical Exclusion for a test pit integrally associated with the proposed Trinity 1-8 mining project. This CE is illegal for a number of reasons, not least that NEPA requires, as noted above, that all the potential impacts of a proposed project be considered together in one place. The proposed Test Pit is clearly linked to the larger project; in fact, the results of the Test Pit operation may lead to expansion of the larger project. Thus, the Test Pit must be considered as a part of the documentation, analysis, and disclosure of the cumulative impacts of the proposed mine. L

### 4. **Purpose and Need**

The Forest Service must not narrowly define the “purpose and need for action” of the EIS to exclude measures that do not directly respond to the claimant’s desire to mine. Such a narrow construct of the purposes of the DEIS and NEPA processes artificially limits the range of alternatives to responding to the claimant’s plan of operation by approving some mining, whether or not there has been a discovery of a valuable mineral. (see below) Such a purpose and need cannot meet the intent of NEPA or its implementing regulations. The EIS should analyze an alternative that proposes to withdraw from mineral entry sensitive parts of the area included in the claimant’s proposal, such as Riparian and Late Successional Reserves and any areas which contain ESA-listed or other unique and/or sensitive plants or animals. M

### 5. **Alternatives**

In order to fulfill NEPA’s requirements, the Forest Service must develop a full range of reasonable alternatives to the proposed mining operation and gather site-specific information about the affected environment/analysis area and the resources at risk. Most importantly, the mining claimant must provide detailed information on his mining plan so that the full, cumulative, and future impacts of the proposed action can be analyzed, and so that the public understands what is being proposed for their “heritage lands” and can comment on and participate in gathering information on the impacts of this proposed mine. NEPA requires that “[i]f a draft statement is so inadequate as to preclude meaningful analysis, the agency shall circulate a revised draft of the appropriate portion”. 40 CFR § 1502.9.

In part, the purposes of NEPA, as defined by Congress, are to “... encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment; to promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment ...; and to enrich the

understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the Nation ...”. 42 USC §4321. The purposes of NEPA’s implementing regulations are to help public officials make decisions that are based on understanding of environmental consequences, and to take actions that protect, restore, and enhance the environment. 40 CFR 1500.1(c). NEPA’s implementing regulations state that,

[t]he primary purpose of an environmental impact statement is to serve as an action-forcing device to insure that the policies and goals as defined in the Act are infused into the ongoing programs and actions of the Federal Government. It shall provide full and fair discussion of significant environmental impacts and shall inform decision-makers and the public of reasonable alternatives which would avoid or minimize adverse impacts or enhance the quality of the human environment. 40 CFR § 1502.1.

Nowhere in NEPA or its implementing regulations is there language that indicates the only reasonable alternatives to a proposed action are those that propose some form or scale of mining in response to a claimant’s desire to mine. The FS cannot bias the range of alternatives by claiming that it cannot deny a reasonable mining plan of operation, yet simply assumes the claimant has a right to mine.

The Forest Service should look at alternatives that would shorten the timeframe for this proposal so as to prevent chronic effects of the action. Many years of disturbance is multiple generations for most species in the planning area and may cumulatively impact species (and other resources and values) at multiple spatial and temporal scales.

The DEIS must include a full range of reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including but not limited to an alternative that would not approve surface disturbing activity until it is determined this is a reasonable venture. N

## 6. **Threatened, Endangered, Sensitive, Proposed and Management Indicator Species Impacts**

The proposed mine project would clearly pose risks of impacts to various species protected by state and federal law and regulation. These species include salmon and steelhead, and may include other aquatic species. Clearly, the northern spotted owl and Pacific fisher could be affected by the proposed project. As well, other species listed by the Forest Service as Sensitive, or by the state and federal governments, may be affected by the proposed project.

The DEIS must fully document, analyze, and disclose the potential impacts of the proposed project on all such species and their habitats. Particularly for listed species, the project must be evaluated not only on the question whether this project would drive the species to extinction (“**jeopardy**”, in its now-defunct sense) but whether the proposed project would be consistent with the requirements of species **recovery** (“conservation”, in the language of the Endangered Species Act). The Ninth Circuit has now made this requirement clear in its ruling in *Gifford Pinchot Task Force v. USFS*. The Forest Service must consult with the US FWS and NOAA Fisheries, as appropriate, on this basis in order to prepare an adequate EIS.

The EIS must fully disclose all such species that may be affected by the proposed project, including all surveys and other methods used to assess population levels, trends, and health. This should include Management Indicator Species, and especially aquatic species, as well as the threatened/endangered and otherwise listed species already flagged

as conservation priorities. As shown by several recent court decisions, the Forest Service may only rely on habitat proxy data for MIS analyses where it has made a showing that it is for some good reason unable to collect useful data on population levels and trends.

As well, the proposed project must not drive species toward listing, under NFMA and its implementing regulations. The Pacific fisher is proposed for listing under the ESA, and has been designated as “warranted but precluded” by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Any detrimental impacts to the species, including loss of effective habitat, reduction in population numbers, or loss of potential recovery opportunities, could contribute to a continued downward trend for this species, and to listing under the ESA. The EIS must fully document, analyze, and disclose the potential effects of the proposed project on fishers, and consider alternatives that will eliminate and reduce impacts on fishers.

The Forest Service has recently announced its intention to conduct entirely internal “consultations” on questions of threatened and endangered species impacts. We consider these regulations to be illegal, and urge the Forest Service to continue to fully consult with US FWS and NOAA Fisheries as required by law for any and all projects which may affect listed species. So-called “self consultations” on these issues do not satisfy the requirements of the ESA and other laws.

The DEIS must fully integrate, document, analyze, and disclose any and all new information about these species. Such information would include the results and recommendations issued pursuant to the status review of the northern spotted owl, information about the Pacific fisher revealed in the course of the ongoing dispute over its proposed listing, and any and all information about the recovering salmonid populations in Canyon Creek and the Trinity River. Of particular importance are the recommendations emerging from the FWS’s review of the status of the northern spotted owl, which suggest, first, that northwestern California may be a particularly important refuge area for the species; second, that the species faces threats, including the West Nile virus, sudden oak death, the barred owl, and climate change, which were not considered in the Northwest Forest Plan; and third, that all existing suitable NSO habitat must now be re-evaluated and protected in order to buffer against these new layers of uncertainty.

We reiterate that the DEIS must consider the question of impacts on salmonid **recovery**, as it is more than clear that the fisheries of the Trinity River and Canyon Creek, particularly the spring chinook, coho, and steelhead trout, are far from reaching a level where they might be considered to be insulated against future threats, including climate change as well as the multiple insults which laid the runs low in the first instance – which, it is worth noting, included gold mining.

The EIS should also document, analyze, and disclose any potential harm the proposed project may pose to other species – including plant species. Plant species must be surveyed in appropriate seasons. ] O P

## **7. Mercury release**

Among the most disturbing potential impacts of the proposed mine is the release of mercury, in both its elemental and methylated forms, into the environment. The EIS must fully document, analyze, and disclose the potential effects, including direct, indirect, and cumulative effects, of mercury contamination resulting from the proposed action.

The EIS must consider and document all available data on mercury levels in the soils, water, and biota of the project area, including Big East Fork, Canyon Creek itself, and the Trinity River. It must document and analyze any and all available information on the mercury and other heavy metal contents of the soils and ores that would be affected by the proposed project.

The proposed processing method, involving crushing ores, washing them, and allowing the non-target minerals to settle out in settling ponds perched hundreds of feet above the confluence of Canyon and Big East Fork Creeks, seems designed to inject the most hazardous form of mercury – methylated mercury – into the environment for generations. The EIS must fully document, analyze, and disclose the risks of elemental mercury becoming methylated in anaerobic conditions such as those that would be created in the settling ponds, where mercury would likely attach to the very fine sediment particles created by ore processing. The EIS must consider the risks and potential effects of full and partial release of mercury-laden sediments into Canyon Creek and the Trinity River.

These risks must be assessed both for fish and wildlife populations and for human populations as well. Assays and assessments must be consistent with the EPA’s latest standards and guidelines for methyl mercury. As the federal EPA has itself only recently noted,

“(M)ost of the health risk from mercury exposure is due to methylmercury exposure from fish consumption. Many factors determine risk from exposure including the dose, the duration, and the type of contact. The developing fetus and young children are a higher risk population because methylmercury in the mother’s body may enter the unborn child and breast-feeding infants. Young children are at risk because their nervous systems are still developing and because of their lower body weight compared to adults. Exposure and health risks may be determined by measuring the amounts of mercury in blood, urine, breast milk and hair. Over time, the body can rid itself of some contamination. Adults who consume an unusually large amount of contaminated fish on a regular basis may also be at risk.” (see [www.epa.gov/ost/fish](http://www.epa.gov/ost/fish))

Clearly, the members of the Hoopa valley tribe and other native peoples in the area who have traditionally depended on a diet seasonally heavy in salmonids must be considered “Adults who consume an unusually large amount of contaminated fish on a regular basis.” The EIS must fully document, analyze, and disclose the risks to human and animal health, including reproductive success and nervous system development, of the methylated and elemental mercury that may be produced as a result of the proposed project. The EIS must consider an alternative that would prevent the methylation of elemental mercury, and ones that would absolutely bar the potential release of mercury into the environment of Canyon Creek and the Trinity River. Q

## 8. **Impacts to Soils**

Among the most serious potential impacts of the proposed project would be those on the soils of the area. As noted above, soils in much of lower Canyon Creek were largely obliterated by hydraulic mining, and have been severely affected by placer mining as well. Without healthy and productive soils, the rest of the ecosystem has no real prospect for full and effective recovery; forests don’t grow as well where soils have been removed, destroyed, compacted, or severely disrupted. What consequences might the proposed project have for vegetative succession in the affected areas? How might such changes

affect plant, animal, and aquatic communities in the affected area? How might these soil impacts lead to increased risks of high-intensity fires? The EIS must fully document, analyze and disclose the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the proposed project on soils.

As well, the EIS must document and disclose the potential effects of mining that may result in acid mine drainage, release of toxic substances, or release of heavy metals. A bedrock analysis must be done and documented. R

## 9. Impacts to water resources

The proposed project would use more than 100,000 gallons of water annually, to be drawn from the Big East Fork of Canyon Creek. The EIS must fully document, analyze, and disclose the impacts of the proposed project on water resources, including of course direct, indirect, and cumulative effects, on water quantity, quality, and affected users downstream.

The EIS must consider and disclose water data for Big East Fork, for Canyon Creek itself, and for the Trinity River, including seasonal flow structure, mineral levels, and any and all other data which may be relevant to impacts of the proposed project on water resources. Of particular importance are the needs of the human families downstream who draw their drinking water either directly from the watercourses or from the aquifers connected to the watercourses. The EIS must also consider the potential for drawdowns related to this project, in combination with domestic water withdrawals, affecting the survival and recovery of salmonids and other sensitive aquatic species in the project area.

The EIS must also fully disclose, document and analyze any and all potential impacts on water quality. Some – mercury releases -- have been sketched above, but the project clearly poses potential impacts to water quality that would include sediment releases, reduction in upstream and upland shade, increased risk of severe wildfire and consequent erosion, and release of mechanical fluids into the environment. All must be fully analyzed, and the EIS must consider alternatives which would prevent detrimental impacts to the water resources of Canyon Creek and the Trinity River.

The EIS must examine the question of compliance with the Clean Water Act, and fully analyze and disclose any potential impacts which may result in violations of the CWA, whether through point-source discharges or by nonpoint discharges which result in violations of TMDLs for Canyon Creek or the Trinity River, or by violation of the antidegradation provisions of the CWA. S

## 10. Wilderness

The scenic and ecological beauty of the southeastern portion of the Trinity Alps Wilderness area are the equal or better of any National Park in the US.

The proposed action is likely to adversely affect the experience of the thousands of annual visitors to the Trinity Alps Wilderness who use the Canyon Creek trailhead, the single most popular entrance to the largest and most scenic of northwest California's protected Wilderness Areas. The EIS must fully document, analyze, and disclose the potential impacts of the proposed project on Wilderness-related visits to the Canyon Creek area, as well as any potential impacts to the fisheries and wildlife populations which are part of the value of the Wilderness area. The EIS must analyze an alternative which would fully protect these wilderness values. T

## **11. WSR Act**

As noted above, the Shasta-Trinity national forest plan (LRMP) has recommended that Canyon Creek be designated and protected under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, principally for its salmonid fisheries. The EIS must fully document, analyze, and disclose any and all potential impacts on the fisheries or the stream itself that might reduce Canyon Creek's eligibility for this important designation, the nation's pre-eminent legal mechanism for protecting watercourses like Canyon Creek and the Trinity River. U

## **12. Consistency with LRMP and NFP**

As noted directly above, the Shasta-Trinity Forest Plan recommends that Canyon Creek be protected under the WSRA. As well, the LRMP designates Canyon Creek as a Tier 1 key watershed under the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP). The EIS must fully discuss the glaring contradictions between these elements of its controlling resource management plan and the proposed mining project. The EIS should analyze at least one alternative which is fully consistent with the LRMP's requirements on these and all other points. This would include consistency with the recommendations and findings of the relevant Watershed Analysis, as required by the NFP.

As well, the EIS must show clearly how the proposed action would be consistent with the other requirements of the NFP, including the Survey and Manage Program, the Aquatic Conservation Strategy, and the protection of both Riparian and Late Successional Reserves. As the proposed project would clearly impact both Riparian and Late Successional Reserves, the EIS must fully analyze and disclose the potential consequences of those effects, and must consider an alternative that would not impair those key reserve areas. V

## **13. Terms and conditions/ Plan of operations**

Because the impacts sketched above, to be fully disclosed, documented, and analyzed in the EIS, pose such serious threats to such important public resources in this very significant area, the Forest Service has a particularly important obligation in this instance to fully uphold its responsibility to protect public trust resources through the plan of operations required of the operator. The EIS must analyze and document, and the Forest Service must implement, terms and conditions on the plan of operations which prevent damage to public resources wherever possible, and which require full and immediate functional restoration of those public resources in every instance.

Among the issues which must be addressed in this analysis is the cost to the Forest Service of allowing and administering the activities associated with the proposed project, which must be reckoned among the necessary mitigation costs. As well, the analysis must include the economic costs of the proposed action to other users and to public resources, and weigh those costs against the speculative and uncertain potential returns to be realized by the privately-held operators of the proposed project.

If the project would result in net costs to the public in any of these respects, the EIS should document, disclose, and analyze that potential deficit, and consider alternatives which would reduce or eliminate the public subsidy for private profit at the expense of our natural heritage. The Forest Service must have the power to prevent potentially permanent damage to public resources of the kind and quality of those at stake here; if the agency has the power, it must at least propose and analyze an alternative which would so

prevent effectively irreparable harm to public resources. If the Forest Service is of the mistaken opinion that it lacks the power to protect key natural and public resources, then the EIS should say so in clear and compelling language, and the Forest Service should seek additional Congressional authority to do its most important job.

As well, the Forest Service must incorporate some method of controlling and /or intervening in the proposed action should circumstances now unforeseen require it.

Certainly, an operating period of 25 years is far too long for a project that poses the risks at issue here. Instead, the EIS should consider terms and conditions that would take the proposed project through a series of developmental steps, with each being carefully and fully evaluated to ensure minimal environmental impacts before proceeding to the next stage. The proposed long-term permit simply poses an unacceptable risk to the public interest that the project will be allowed to proceed for a generation, then leave the Forest Service with yet another unfunded and impossible restoration job.

Full restoration of any and all activity areas should be guaranteed by a bond of sufficient magnitude to ensure full and immediate functional recovery for all affected areas. If the mine can't pay its own way, then maybe there doesn't need to be another gold mine on public land on Canyon Creek.

Any plan of operations must include a provision which would allow the public to enforce its provisions in the absence of Forest Service action.

The FS must contain a cost benefit analysis that addresses the **full** costs of the proposed mining plan and alternatives to it, including previously unquantified environmental impacts and ecological and amenity values in accordance with the NEPA 42 USC § 4332. The cost benefit analysis must also include consideration of the cost of complying with environmental laws and regulations, including NEPA, and must discuss the relationship between the mining plan and its alternatives and environmental impacts, values and amenities of the surrounding area and watershed. W

#### **14. Full Cost-Benefit Analysis a Critical Element of Claim Validity: no "right to mine"**

##### **A. Filing Mining Plan Invests No Right for Approval:**

As noted in a recent decision from the Department of the Interior, "the mere filing of a plan of operations by a holder of a mining claim invests no rights in the claimant to have any plan of operations approved" (emphasis in original). *Great Basin Mine Watch Et Al.*, 146 IBLA 248, 256 (November 9, 1998). With the IBLA ruling, the FS's position that the "purpose and need" for action is limited to approving some scale of mining becomes even more unsupportable. The FS must consider all reasonable alternatives to the proposed action including those that do not immediately approve some level of mining.

A recent IBLA decision provides a discussion of the basic premise for determining mining claim validity prior to approving mining plans of operation. **The decision establishes binding precedent upon the Interior Department and the BLM.** The IBLA ruled that,

[r]ights to mine under the general mining laws are derivative of a discovery of a valuable mineral deposit and absent such a discovery, denial of a plan of operations is entirely appropriate ... claim validity is determined by the ability of the claimant to show that a profit can be made after accounting for the costs of compliance with all applicable laws and, where a claimant is unable to do so, BLM must, indeed, reject the plan of operations and take

affirmative steps to invalidate the claim by filing a mining contest. *Great Basin Mine Watch Et Al.*, 146 IBLA 248, 256 (November 9, 1998).<sup>1</sup>

The FS must evaluate the economics of the proposed plan of operations to determine whether the operation is economically viable. The FS must use the best available evidence to determine whether the minerals, which the claimant is proposing to mine, are a valuable mineral deposit that can be mined at a profit. X

**B. Assumption of Right to Mine Unreasonable:**

The FS must not assume that the claimant has a right to mine. As discussed previously in these comments, the “right to mine”, as granted by the 1872 Mining Law, is conditioned on the “discovery” of a valuable mineral and “discovery” in part depends on commercial viability.

The FS must not assume that the willingness of the claimant to mine or the mere act of submitting a plan of operations is an adequate test for determining “discovery” of a valuable mineral. In cases involving the validity of mining claims, the courts have held that the prudent person test for “discovery” refers to a “person of ordinary prudence” who would expend labor and means, with a reasonable chance of success of developing a valuable mine. Therefore, the individual miner’s willingness to pursue development of a mine, implied simply by submitting a plan of operations that does not address processing the ore to a final product, is not sufficient to establish the discovery of a valuable mineral. Rather than assuming that the claimant has a right to mine, the FS should assume that the mining proponent has no right to mine and should require the claimant to prove he has a valid claim.

The FS has an affirmative duty to the American public to determine mining claim validity prior to approving any surface disturbing activities.

The FS must take into consideration the full costs of the mining operation. For instance, the cost of compliance with environmental regulations must be considered. The FS must provide a list of all state and federal permits that the mining proponent may be required to obtain, as well as any costs associated with acquiring and complying with such permits. The expenditures of acquiring the permits alone may be considerable.

In addition to state and federal permitting procedures, the cost of complying with NEPA should be factored into determining the profitability of the proposed mine. The cost of preparing NEPA documents, since an EIS is required in order to comply with NEPA, an environmental law, must be factored into the cost of developing a mine.

The Department of Interior’s recent *Great Basin Mine Watch Et Al.* ruling states that,

in determining whether a discovery exists, the costs of compliance with all applicable Federal and State laws (including environmental laws) are properly considered in determining whether or not the mineral deposit is presently marketable at a profit, i.e., whether the mineral deposit can be deemed to be a valuable mineral deposit within the

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<sup>1</sup> Although this decision is technically only immediately binding on the BLM and Interior Department, due to the FS’s policy of reliance on Interior Department decisions interpreting the 1872 Mining Law, any FS decision against this Interior Department rule would be arbitrary and capricious and without basis in law. In addition, BLM, as a cooperating and co-permitting agency for the Federal Government, must follow the rule delineated in *Great Basin Mine Watch, Et Al.*

meaning of the law. *Great Basin Mine Watch Et Al.*, 146 IBLA 248, 256 (November 9, 1998).

Costs include but are not limited to bonding, reclamation, monitoring and other mitigation measures.

NEPA requires that to the fullest extent possible “the policies, regulations, and public laws of the United States shall be interpreted and administered in accordance with the policies set forth in this Act” and that all agencies of the Federal Government shall “identify and develop methods and procedures, in consultation with the Council on Environmental Quality established by title II of this Act, which will insure that presently unquantified environmental amenities and values may be give appropriate consideration in decision making along with economic and technical considerations,” 42 USC § 4332 and § 4332 (B).

First, the FS’s “policy” of assuming that a mining claim is valid until proven otherwise is not in accordance with policies of NEPA that the Federal Government use all practicable means to preserve important natural aspects of our national heritage (42 USC §4331 (b) (4)) and to promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment (42 USC § 4321). Second, the FS must give appropriate consideration to the unquantified environmental impacts, values, and amenities in the DEIS. 40 CFR Part 1502.23. In other words, a practicable means of preventing the mine proposal from damaging nationally important environmental values and amenities is to determine if the mining proponent has discovered a valuable mineral and has a right to mine in the first place. While determination of mining claim validity may not be practicable for every mining operation, it is when economic analysis of the mining operation shows it to be very unprofitable and when the non-mineral values that will be impacted by the mining are high and increasingly scarce.

At a minimum, the EIS must analyze the costs and benefits of the No-action alternative and provide a complete economic analysis of the action alternatives. “NEPA requires, where economic analysis forms the basis of choosing among alternatives, that the analysis not be misleading, biased, or incomplete. *Oregon Natural Resources Council v. Marsh*, 832 F.2d at 1499; *Johnson v. Davis*, 698 F.2d 1088, 1094 (10<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1983). To present a full and unbiased picture of proposed alternatives, the EIS must disclose both benefits and costs. *California v. Block*, 690 F.2d at 764. *Seattle Audubon Society v. Lyons*, Slip Op. at 65, Nos. C92-479WD, C94-758WD & C94-803WD (W.D. Wash., Dec. 21, 1994).

The EIS must analyze or attempt to quantify the environmental and amenity values of an undeveloped and unmined project area, including but not limited to pure water, beauty, open spaces, solitude, ancient soils and landscapes, sensitive and rare plants, biological diversity, and refuge for wild trout, and rare amphibians.

While NEPA does not necessarily require a formal, mathematical cost-benefit analysis, environmental impact statements must balance the benefits and environmental cost of the proposed action and each reasonable alternative, including No-action, and then determine which course of action has the best net balance. The EIS should analyze the environmental and amenity values in relationship to the environmental costs of the mining. ]Y

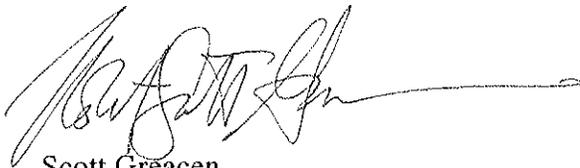
## 15. Conclusions

For the reasons outlined above, as well as for the reasons noted in other comments, EPIC and KS Wild are firmly opposed to the approval of any mining project in this area, and particularly dismayed by the implications of the proposed action. We are very concerned that any approval by the Forest Service of any project along these lines would be a violation of federal and state law, and a failure of the Forest Service to uphold its most central mission, the protection of the productive capacity of public lands and waters.

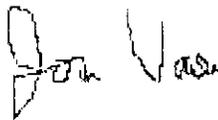
We look forward to receiving the DEIS in full at your earliest opportunity, and to reviewing the record developed in the course of the DEIS. Please include both our organizations in any communications on this matter.

Thank you for your attention, and for your work protecting America's natural heritage. z

Sincerely yours,



Scott Greacen  
National Forest Program Coordinator  
Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC)  
POB 397 Garberville, CA 95542  
ph 707/923-2931 fax 4210



Joseph Vaile  
Campaign Coordinator  
Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center  
POB 102 Ashland OR 97520  
p: 541-488-5789  
f: 541-482-7282

# South Fork Trinity River Land Conservancy

P.O. Box 36

Mad River CA 95552

707-574-1077

wildriver.trinity@starband.net

Shasta Trinity National Forest  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, 96093

RE: Comments On Canyon Creek

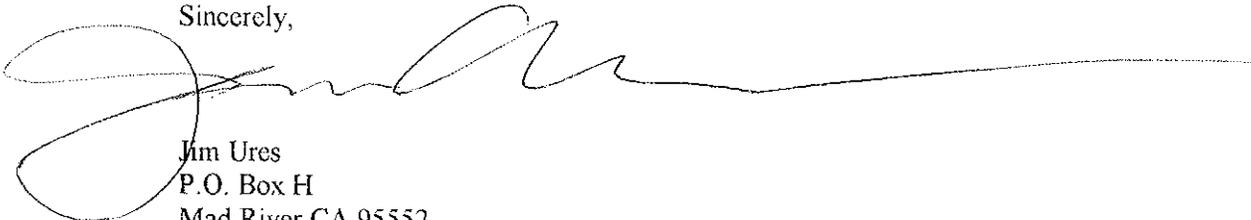
Dear Michael Mitchell,

The South Fork Trinity River Land Conservancy is very concerned with the plans for an open pit mine on Canyon Creek. The public uses this area extensively as do the salmon and many other threatened and endangered animals and plants. For Master Petroleum company to use this area for economic gain is outrageous. The environment is too ecologically important in its natural state and it takes too long for it to recover from mining operations. This is obvious from the recent nearby mining operations that have failed to meet restoration objectives and one can certainly look at all the tailings from mining operations started in the 1850's that still have not recovered. We depend on the Forest Service to protect our National Forests.

Canyon Creek is too fragile and too steep to accommodate such a massive mining operation. Master Petroleum proposes to mine as close as 100 ft from Canyon Creek, which could lead to leaching of highly toxic mercury into the water. They plan to use as much as 190,00 gallons of water a day for up to 22 days a month for 10 months a year. I would like to know how this could be consistent with the Federal and State Wild and Scenic Rivers program, and the Aquatic conservation strategy. The vast amounts of topsoil to be removed and trees to be cut are far more than this area can tolerate.

Please notify me of any future developments regarding the Master Petroleum mining proposal for Canyon Creek. Please suggest to them that they drop their plans as the local people are mounting massive opposition to their plan to destroy one of our favorite places. We are enlisting the help of local, regional, and national organizations to fight their proposal.

Sincerely,



Jim Ures  
P.O. Box H  
Mad River CA 95552  
707-574-6434  
imuneq2@intergate.com

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P.O. Box 36

Mad River CA 95552

707-574-1077

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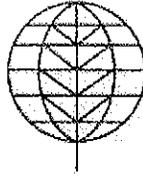
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Sincerely,



Shirlee Hanson  
P.O. Box H  
Mad River CA 95552  
707-574-6434  
shirlee@intergate.com



**EARTHWORKS**

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Mike Mitchell, Project Leader  
Weaverville Ranger Station  
PO Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

August 26, 2004

RE: scoping comments for Trinity I – 8 Placer Mining Claims

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Mining Plan of Operation submitted to the Forest Service by Master Petroleum for Trinity I – 8 Placer Mining Claims.

Although your office was kind enough to send me a copy of the Plan of Operation for this project, you did not include any attachments or maps that are referred to in the plan. Therefore, Earthworks reserves the right to submit additional comments when we see the attachments and maps that we assume are still in the mail. **A**

Please consider and address the following point when writing a full and complete draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project: **B**

The mine proposal is very close to the Trinity Alps Wilderness along the road to the Canyon Creek Trailhead into the Wilderness. Great care must be taken to not impair the Wilderness experience of people driving to and from the trailhead. After spending time hiking and communing with nature within a Wilderness area, there are few things worse than immediately being impacted by a full bore industrial operation. The EIS should fully examine the impacts to Wilderness users (and others) from noise, dust, traffic, and visual impacts. In addition, the EIS should examine any possible impacts due to traffic congestion and the possibility of safety issue on the road to the trailhead – including conflicts between non-motorized traffic and mine equipment and haul trucks. Also, while difficult, but not impossible to quantify, the negative impacts to the spiritual, serene and social quality of the area should also be taken into account. **C D E F G H**

Canyon Creek has a rating of Variety Class A, outstanding remarkable values, for visual quality/scenery. In addition, Canyon Creek is eligible for Wild & Scenic status. This mining project is a direct threat to these values and the EIS should address if this project could proceed without destroying these values. **F I**

Canyon Creek has (and still is) recovering nicely from the mining days of old. It has become important habitat for steelhead and salmon and is and ecologically important tributary to the

Trinity River. The EIS should address the impact mining would have on the fishery and should detail the full impact the project would have on the riparian area surrounding Canyon Creek. In addition, the EIS should fully examine the potential for conflicts with endangered, threatened or sensitive aquatic avian or terrestrial species, due to habitat lost, turbidity, mercury contamination or other impacts. J K L M

Previous mining efforts have contaminated the area with high concentrations of mercury in the alluvial floodplain of the Creek. The proposed method seems designed to inject the most hazardous form of mercury – methylated mercury – into the environment for generations. The EIS must fully document, analyze and disclose the risks of elemental mercury becoming methylated in anaerobic conditions like those that would be created in the settling ponds. The EIS should require the site to be cleared of mercury contamination before additional mining is allowed to occur. L M

The EIS should include a full health risk assessment for the project, including impacts from mercury in the aquatic environment through soil disturbance, and should fully disclose all of the health risks associated with ingesting water, fish, plant material, or in any way being exposed to elevated levels of mercury as a result of the project. M N

The EIS should disclose fully the loss of water from the Creek due to mining operations and should show how any loss of water can be fully mitigated. O

The EIS should require a reclamation bond that is both liquid and adequate enough to cover all foreseen and unforeseen reclamation activities. The bonding method should be consistent with the BLM's 40 CFR 3809 regulations that do not allow corporate guarantees to be used for bonding. The bond should also be large enough to include full mitigation of an "accidents" or spills. The bond levels should be set before any permits be granted, should be available for public comment and should be periodically be reviewed to make sure it remains large enough to cover bonding for the entire length of the project and also to cover post reclamation monitoring for a period sufficient to assure that reclamation has succeeded. The EIS should include a reclamation plan that provides measurable benchmarks. P

The EIS should include a full cumulative effects analysis of all past, present and future foreseeable actions with Canyon Creek and within the Trinity River system in terms of mining, roadbuilding, logging, and recreation and their impacts on water quality, aquatic and terrestrial wildlife. Earthworks believes that the economic benefit to the region from this project – if any – would be negligible at best and certainly not worth the risk of damage to the Canyon Creek and the Trinity Alps Wilderness. Q

The EIS should include a full economic analysis of the environmental costs from this project to the fishing industry (both commercial and sport), local tourism, rafting and other traditional and nontraditional uses of the Canyon Creek and Trinity River watersheds. The economic analysis should also include an assessment that attempts to quantify the loss of quality of life to local residents. R

Earthworks urges the Forest Service to include a full complement of alternative in the EIS including the no action alternative and full remediation of mercury contamination.

The above list is just some of many questions that need to be addressed in your upcoming EIS. We look forward to reviewing this project as it progresses and to helping shape a decision that upholds the ecological heritage, quality of life, and long term well being of the area's communities for years to come.

Sincerely,



Roger Featherstone  
Southwest Circuit Rider  
Earthworks  
PO Box 3351  
Reno, NV 89505  
(775) 324-6115  
rfeatherstone@earthworksaction.org



"Roger Featherstone"  
<rfeatherstone@earth  
worksaction.org>

08/27/2004 03:04 PM

To: <mmitchell@fs.fed.us>  
cc:  
Subject: Scoping comments for Trinity Alps Mine proposal

Mike,

Attached please find comments for the scoping process for Master Petroleum's plan of operation for open pit placer mining on Canyon Creek.

I've also sent a copy of my comments by surface mail.

Thank you,  
Roger

===EARTHWORKS

Protecting communities and the environment  
from the destructive impacts of mineral development===

Roger Featherstone  
Southwest Circuit Rider/Organizer  
PO Box 3351  
Reno, NV 89505-3351  
(775) 324-6115  
e: rfeatherstone@earthworksaction.org  
w: www.earthworksaction.org

NOTE: On March 1st, Mineral Policy Center became EARTHWORKS



Trinity Alps mine comments.pdf

**O P T C**

AN ORGANIZED CITIZENS' GROUP  
ADVOCATING SOUND PLANNING  
LAND USE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
EIN - 42-1570226

## Organization to Preserve Trinity County

Bob Rowen - President \* PO BOX 2381 Weaverville, CA 96093 \* (530) 623-5484

23 August 2004

Joyce Anderson  
Weaverville District Ranger  
Shasta-Trinity National Forest  
Weaverville, CA

Dear Joyce,

I respectfully submit the attached comments on the Canyon Creek/Big East Fork Mining Project on behalf of OPTC. Please include these comments as part of the record during the scoping phase of the Forest Service process.

Thank you.



Colleen O'Sullivan  
Secretary/Treasurer, OPTC

## Watershed Analysis concerns

### Canyon Creek/Big East Fork Mining Project

#### General Comments

[ The Watershed Analysis prepared for the greater Canyon Creek watershed does not adequately describe the function of the riparian reserves in Canyon Creek and Big East Fork in terms of channel stability, wildlife use patterns and the impact of projects like this one on the function of the riparian reserves. The existing Watershed Analysis was prepared on a gross scale encompassing two large areas.

Watershed Analysis is a dynamic process open to revision as new information and issues emerge. The Watershed Analysis of Canyon Creek in terms of impacts to riparian values as it relates to bench like mining operations is void. The relationship of human activities to affects on vegetation, soil, water and wildlife is not described such that a reader can determine what effects a project like bench mining will have on meeting the objectives of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS).

Lumping Canyon Creek with the North Fork Trinity River is like calling an orange an apple. Canyon Creek has a heavy hand of human impact (settlement, water drafting, extensive road systems) while the North Fork Trinity River is comparatively pristine. [A]

[ A new and more relevant Watershed Analysis must precede any further NEPA documents for the Canyon Creek Watershed. This new document must contain specific standards and guidelines for meeting ACS objectives and provide analysis for a range of currently proposed as well as future activities that could affect meeting the ACS objectives. The relative value of a fully functioning riparian reserve must be assessed and placed in the context of activities that could affect its ability to function properly, such as mining. [B C]

[ Canyon Creek has a history of heavy disturbance through extensive mining, settlement, past fires, roads and timber harvest. The existing Watershed Analysis states that mining has irreversibly altered riparian conditions in Canyon Creek. Clearly, the onus is on the proponent and Forest Service, who has the responsibility for maintaining surface conditions, to demonstrate how this project will accelerate the recovery of Canyon Creek. This is the prime objective for all Tier 1 Key Watersheds. [D]

## Specific comments related to the project proposed

### Water Quality/Quantity

Establish baseline information on water quality parameters (turbidity, dissolved solids, water temperature, flow) for the Big East Fork above the project and below the project on Canyon Creek below the confluence.

Determine flow regime of Big East Fork for full year including low flow periods in summer months. A hydrograph of the Big East Fork should be established in terms of flow. E

### Impacts to Wildlife & Riparian Uses

What kind of habitat does the proposed project area provide in terms of corridor habitat, breeding habitat, foraging habit etc? How will the proposed project impact the pattern of uses of this habitat? F

### Slope Stability

60 degree slope is too steep if left open and could easily translate to instability off site if the area is subjected to large storm event – i.e. summer thunderstorm. For unconsolidated fill, which this is, a 15 degree slope is appropriate to assure stable conditions.

### Soil Resources

All top soil (O, A and B) should be stockpiled and maintained with a cover crop. Dust abatement should take place during soil disturbance. G

### Visual Resources

Canyon Creek is a county designated Scenic Roadway. The project should comply with visual quality standards as recommended in the County General Plan. The Forest Service has recommended that Canyon Creek be placed into the Wild & Scenic River system. As such the Forest Service is obligated to meet objectives under Wild & Scenic River visual standards. H

**Prudent Man Test**

The proponent states the following:

***“Our recovery of gold in the test pit of Trinity 1-8 in the fall of 2000 demands that this area be mined, especially when placed in the context of the entire area”.***

This does not constitute an adequate achievement of the Prudent Man Test.

We would like to see an assessment by the minerals examiner for the Forest to verify that reserves are present to justify mining. The Scarlet Ray mine in the immediate vicinity of this proposed project did not produce enough gold in retrospect to have justified the expense.]



August 26, 2004

Michael Mitchell  
Shasta-Trinity National Forest  
P.O. Box 1190 Weaverville, CA 96093

Dear Michael,

The Klamath Forest Alliance would like to submit **scoping comments for preparation of Trinity 1-8 EIS**, which would allow open pit mining on Canyon Creek in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, adjacent to the Trinity Alps Wilderness. As proposed this project would remove about 1 ½ million tons of soil and gravels to extract gold on at least 22 acres of our public lands, for up to 25 years, directly adjacent to Canyon Creek, an eligible Wild and Scenic River. A B C

The creek side forest would be stripped of vegetation, including ancient forest of Douglas Firs on the way to the immensely popular Canyon Creek trailhead, gateway to the Trinity Alps Wilderness. D E Over 300,000 gallons of water would be used a day from the East Fork of Canyon Creek, tributary to Canyon Creek watershed, at the Wilderness boundary. This is a precious source of cold water, critical refuge for nursery and native fish. F G

The vast amounts of topsoil to be removed and trees to be cut are far more than this area can tolerate. The EIS must disclose the effects to soils and wildlife. H I J

The massive amounts of water, hundreds of thousands of gallons a day, proposed to be taken out of East Fork Canyon Creek by Master Petroleum is more than that the stream system can accommodate. The EIS must address the effects of water diversion and cumulative effects to Riparian Areas. The EIS must address how this project will meet the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, TMDL's and all pertinent and applicable laws. K L M J

The eligible Wild & Scenic River, Canyon Creek is important refuge for at risk fish species. The EIS must address impacts to at risk fish species and the aquatic environment. N J

It is not appropriate for the Forest Service to allow industrial open pit mines in Canyon Creek. The environment is too ecologically important in its natural state, takes too long for it to recover from mining operations. O The area is too fragile and too steep to accommodate such massive mining as proposed by Master Petroleum. P

---

## *Klamath Forest Alliance*

*FOREST PROTECTION* P.O. Box 21, Orleans, CA 95556 (530) 627-3090 [klam\\_watch@yahoo.com](mailto:klam_watch@yahoo.com)  
*MAIN OFFICE* P.O. Box 756, Somes Bar, CA 95568 (530) 469-3221 [wildsalmon@starband.net](mailto:wildsalmon@starband.net)

The beauty and natural intact resources of Canyon Creek are too valuable to be decimated. Citizens of Trinity County value this watershed as one of their major attractions for tourism. The EIS must address the effects on socio-economics and impacts on the human environment. ] Q R J

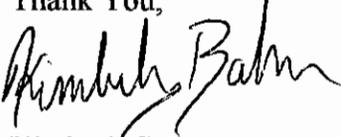
The FS must contain a cost benefit analysis that addresses the full costs of the proposed mining plan and alternatives to it, including previously unquantified environmental impacts and ecological and amenity values in accordance with the NEPA 42 USC § 4332. The cost benefit analysis must also include consideration of the cost of complying with environmental laws and regulations, including NEPA, and must discuss the relationship between the mining plan and its alternatives and environmental impacts, values and amenities of the surrounding area and watershed. ] J

The FS must provide a list of all state and federal permits that the mining proponent may be required to obtain, as well as any costs associated with acquiring and complying with such permits. The expenditures of acquiring the permits alone may be considerable. Cumulative impact is the impact on the environment, which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time. ] J S

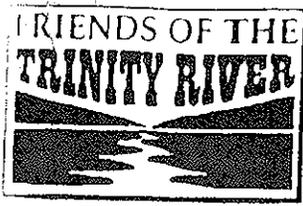
The connected actions and the past, present and future activities on federal and adjacent private land must be considered in the EIS. They need to be considered as they relate to all issues and resources of concern. Road building, renovation and upgrading, timber sales, cattle grazing, other mining, and private land use are some of the activities you need to take a hard look at. Sensitive species, water quality and quantity (peak versus base flow), cultural resources, soils, habitat connectivity, and many other issues (which the ID team will undoubtedly identify) of concern need to address in individual cumulative effects analyses. ] J T U V W H S

The EIS must explain in detail what monitoring techniques are being planned. ] J

Impacts to the human environment, wildlife and to at risk fish species are great. Please consider the value of keeping Canyon Creek in its natural state.

Thank You,  
  
Kimberly Baker

Klamath Forest Alliance  
PO Box 21 Orleans, CA 95556



DEDICATED TO RESTORING  
A GREAT RIVER

August 24, 2004

Mr. Mike Mitchell  
United States Forest Service  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Re: Scoping Comments Proposed Canyon Creek Mining Project

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

These comments are offered on behalf of the more than 2,000 members of Friends of Trinity River in response to scoping requirements you are undertaking for environmental documentation regarding a proposed 25-acre mining project adjoining Clear Creek.

[ Our position is that a complete Environmental Impact Statement as well as a complete Environmental Impact Report is required before any permit for such operations could be issued. This is because significant adverse impacts likely will occur from the proposed operation. ] [ The scale of the proposed project, its topography and the unstable geology of the area to be mined most likely will lead to sediment discharges into Canyon Creek, a Trinity River fish spawning area, as well as spawning areas in the Trinity River. These realities demand a full and thorough examination of all possible environmental consequences. ] [ B C D ] [ A ]

[ We ask for full compliance with the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) that anticipates adverse results from such operations and allows posting of a bond. In addition, based upon the results of similar projects elsewhere in and beyond this state, a bond must be posted for a sizeable amount for restoration of the mined area. Without adequate funds to assure restoration, the alternative time after time after time has been to load restoration costs onto taxpayers. Even in those circumstances, restoration actions for similar projects have been grossly inadequate. We believe, based upon similar operations elsewhere, that a bond must be posted in the amount of a minimum of \$25,000 an acre. ] [ E ]

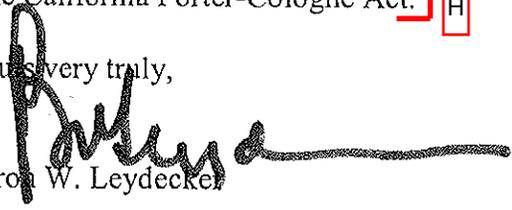
[ The 1872 Mining Act is clear that the public has certain rights to exploit public lands and their resources. However, the law does not provide for devastation of an area critical to adjoining lands, people, creeks and rivers and to inflict detrimental impacts upon fish and wildlife. In fact, it is not at all clear that a reasonable financial requirement - a total of at least \$625,000 - would be adequate. Attempts at restoration of exploited lands extending years down the line - at whatever cost now is attributed to such efforts - would not necessarily assure mitigation for negative impacts so severe that no permit should be issued. ] [ F ]

Mr. Mike Mitchell  
August 24, 2004  
page two

[The project, if approved, must apply for a 401 permit from the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. Included in that application must be a condition requiring daily monitoring of water quality, turbidity and all other adverse water impacts in Canyon Creek below the mining operation. Monitoring also must determine that water quality in Trinity River is not degraded at all as a result of operation of the proposed project.] [G]

[While the 1872 Mining Act provides that the Forest Service issue permits on its lands for such activities as are currently the subject of this proposal, subsequent federal and state laws set forth requirements for environmental compliance that also must be fulfilled. We intend to see that all laws related to this project are enforced and that the Forest Service and the applicants for this mining operation comply with all such laws, including but not limited to the Clean Water Act, SMARA, and the California Porter-Cologne Act.] [H]

Yours very truly,

  
Byron W. Leydecker

BWL/mw

cc: The Hon. Dianne Feinstein  
The Hon. Barbara Boxer  
The Hon Wally Herger  
The Hon. Mike Thompson  
The Hon. George Miller  
Secretary Ann M. Veneman  
Chairman Clifford Lyle Marshall

# South Fork Trinity River Land Conservancy

P.O. Box 36

Mad River CA 95552

707-574-1077

wildriver.trinity@starband.net

Dear Michael Mitchell,

Shasta Trinity National Forest

P.O. Box 1190, Weaverville, 96093.

RE: Comments On Canyon Creek

The South Fork Trinity River Land Conservancy is very concerned with the plans for an open pit mine on Canyon Creek. [The public uses this area extensively as do the salmon and many other threatened and endangered animals and plants.] [For Master Petroleum company to use this area for economic gain is ABC outrageous. The environment is too ecologically important in its natural state; and, it takes too long for it to recover from mining operations. This is obvious from the recent nearby mining operations that have failed to meet restoration objectives and one can certainly look at all the tailings from mining operations started in the 1850's that still have not recovered. We depend on the Forest Service to protect our National Forests.] D

[Canyon Creek is too fragile and too steep to accommodate such a massive mining operation.] [Master E Petroleum proposes to mine as close as 100 ft from Canyon Creek which could lead to leaching of highly toxic mercury into the water.] [They plan to use as much as 190,00 gallons of water a day for up to 22 days a month for 10 months a year.] I would like to know how this could be consistent with the Federal and State Wild and Scenic Rivers program, and the Aquatic conservation strategy.] I F G H

[The vast amounts of topsoil to be removed and trees to be cut are far more than this area can tolerate.] J K

[Please notify me of any future developments regarding the Master Petroleum mining proposal for Canyon Creek.] [Please suggest to them that they drop their plans as the local people are mounting massive opposition to their plan to destroy one of our favorite places. We are enlisting the help of local, regional, and national organizations to fight their proposal.] L

Sincerely,



David S. Rose

Executive Director

South Fork Trinity River Land Conservancy

P.O. Box 36

Mad River CA 95552

707-574-1077

wildriver.trinity@starband.net

AC8

# South Fork Trinity River Land Conservancy

P.O. Box 36

Mad River CA 95552

707-574-1077

wildriver.trinity@starband.net

---

Dear Michael Mitchell,

Shasta Trinity National Forest

P.O. Box 1190, Weaverville, 96093.

RE: Comments On Canyon Creek

The South Fork Trinity River Land Conservancy is very concerned with the plans for an open pit mine on Canyon Creek. The public uses this area extensively as do the salmon and many other threatened and endangered animals and plants. To use this area for economic gain for a Master Petroleum company is outrageous. The environment is too ecologically important in its natural state; and, it takes too long for it to recover from mining operations. Just look at all the tailings from mining operations started in the 1850's. We depend on the Forest Service to protect our Forests. D

The area is too fragile and too steep to accommodate such massive mining as proposed by Master Petroleum. E

The vast amounts of topsoil to be removed and trees to be cut are far too much than this area can tolerate. F G

The massive amounts of water, hundreds of thousands of gallons a day, proposed to be taken out of East Fork Canyon Creek by Master Petroleum to process the ore is far too much that the stream system can accommodate. H

Please notify me of any future developments regarding the Master Petroleum mining proposal for Canyon Creek. Please suggest to them that they drop their plans as the local people are mounting massive opposition to their plan to destroy one of our favorite places. We are enlisting the help of local, regional, and national organizations to fight their proposal. I

Sincerely,



David S. Rose

Executive Director

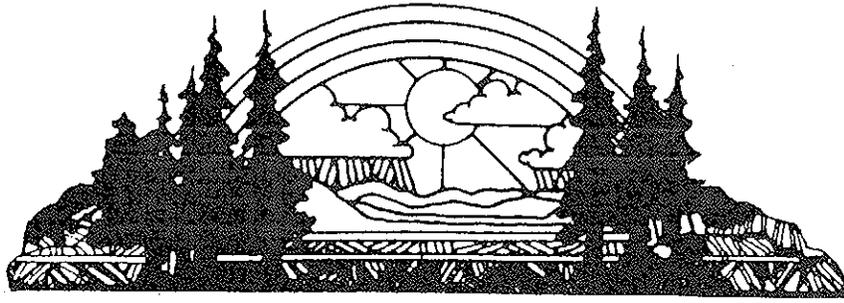
South Fork Trinity River Land Conservancy

P.O. Box 36

Mad River CA 95552

707-574-1077

wildriver.trinity@starband.net



## MENDOCINO FOREST WATCH

P.O. Box 1551, Willits, CA 95490

(707) 459-4715

August 8, 2004

Mike Mitchell, Resource Officer  
Shasta-Trinity National Forest  
"Trinity 1-8"  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96023

Mr. Mitchell,

[ We have hiked and backpacked the Salmon - Trinity Alps for over 15 years, and on our recent trip on the Canyon Creek Trail during the last week of July we were shocked to learn that a large, destructive, open-pit gold mining operation by Master Petroleum is planned for a 22 acre forested area along Canyon Creek. ] A

[ While the antiquated 1872 mining laws confer a statutory right to enter public lands to search for minerals, they do not supercede subsequent laws that require strict adherence to mandatory environmental quality standards. ] B

[ The Environmental Impact Statement required by NEPA mandates that activities that will cause significant environmental impacts shall be identified and mitigated to non-significance. If they cannot be mitigated to non-significance the proposed activity is illegal and cannot be approved. ] C

[ Clearly, a vast open-pit mining operation that will remove all trees and vegetation and 45 feet of topsoil, subsoil, and overburden (1.5 million tons) cannot be mitigated to non-significance. This "Humpty-Dumpty" operation is clearly illegal. ] DE

[ Other significant impacts include: permanent destruction of a sensitive area that is eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation; ] F  
[ permanent destruction of mature second-growth and remnant old-growth forest; ] G  
[ permanent water quality impairment and significant decreases in stream flow (300,000 gallons per day) ] H  
[ during critical biological periods causing irreparable harm to the sensitive anadromous fishery. ] I

[ The proposed mining operation is illegal because it would cause unmitigable significant environmental impacts. The approval of this assault on the Wild and Scenic sensitive Canyon Creek watershed would be an unmitigated disaster. ] J

*Don Morris* *Maryl Morris*  
Don Morris Maryl Morris

cc: Congressman Mike Thompson, EPIC Forest Watch

NGO 9



May 18, 2004

# the Northcoast Environmental Center

Mike Mitchell, Project Leader  
Weaverville Ranger Station  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Via Fax, 530.623.6010

Re: Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims, CAMC # 605515

Dear Mike Mitchell,

This letter is on behalf of the Northcoast Environmental Center regarding the Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims, CAMC #605515, scoping notice. Our comments regarding the scoping phase for this project are the following:

1. The environmental impacts are potentially so large as to suggest that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should be prepared. [A] The Trinity River has been degraded by the operations of the BOR Trinity Diversion, how does this project potentially affect the success or failure of achieving Trinity River Restoration program goals and objectives? [B] The crux of watershed cumulative effects issues in the Klamath-Trinity basin have particularly had to do with the demise of cold water salmonids: Coho salmon, summer steelhead and spring-run Chinook salmon. Project description, evaluation and analysis must address impacts on these rare and/or ESA listed fish species. [C D] How would project approval affect the federal trust responsibilities to downstream Hoopa and Yurok Indian tribes? [E] How will the project affect California goals for recovery of the Coho salmon? [F]
2. Please detail the full scope of the project? Are the project proponents piece-mealing or segmenting project activities to avoid larger environmental review or mitigation? The name of the project implies that there may be additional phases. All project activities must be analyzed in one NEPA document that includes a full range of alternatives. [G]
3. The environmental review must address the suite of issues associated with air borne and/or water conducted chemical pollution associated with process activities. How will project proponents meet state and federal air and water quality, or site restoration standards. Will proponents be required to post a bond to ensure that site clean-up and restoration requirements are met after mining activities are concluded? [H I J K]
4. We support the idea that the EIS should include a riparian free alternative, which would not affect the riparian zone, with all mining activities out of riparian areas. This alternative should address the protection of Wild and Scenic River values. [L M N]
5. The EIS should address the possible time lines along which the mining project might

879 NINTH STREET • ARCATA, CA 95521  
(707) 822-6918 • Fax (707) 822-0827 • email: nec@igc.org  
www.necandeconews.to

operate. ] O

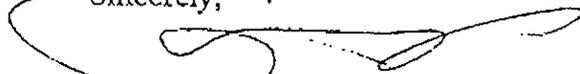
6. The EIS must address how traffic on the roads into the popular wilderness trailhead for Canyon Creek will be affected. What changes in traffic patterns are to be expected? What road maintenance will be required as a result of the project, who will bear those costs? ] P

7. Has watershed analysis of all past, present and future foreseeable activities within Canyon Creek watershed been conducted? Please incorporate the results of that analysis to give the public and agency decision makers an assessment of cumulative effects from mining, roadbuilding, logging, and recreation and their impacts on water quality, aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, both within Canyon Creek and downstream in the Trinity River. ] Q

8. The EIS must address water withdrawals required as part of mining activities, and the impacts these withdrawals would have downstream. ] R

Thank you for your consideration in this important matter, and please include us on your mailing list to receive future updates on the fate of this project proposal. ] S

Sincerely, :



Tim McKay, executive director

CC: Assembly member Patty Berg  
Senator Wes Chesbro  
Congressman Mike Thompson  
Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Senator Barbara Boxer  
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board  
California Department of Fish and Game  
Hoopa Tribal Fisheries

May 18, 2004

Mike Mitchell, Project Leader  
Weaverville Ranger Station  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Re: Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims

Dear Mike,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims. I am opposed to the project, and request that you consider the following:

1. The environmental and health impacts are so destructive and significant that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should be required. What is the full scope of the project? We request that all project activities be analyzed in one NEPA document.
2. The EIS should include a full range of alternatives, including the no action alternative, and complete restoration of the site and bioremediation of mercury and other leachates in the soil as part of all alternatives, rather than allowing further destructive mining to occur. All alternative should require full remediation and that a bond be posted for all mining activities at one time rather than in phases to ensure that the site is cleaned up and properly restored after all mining activities are completed. Bonds for portions of the project will not offset impacts if the whole project area is not considered.
3. The EIS should include an alternative that does not impact any portion of the riparian zone, or two site potential trees, and instead concentrates all mining activities away from the riparian area, as well as alternatives that do not impact visual qualities, scenery, and Wild and Scenic River values. The current proposal takes place within the riparian zone of a Wild and Scenic River.
4. The EIS should include an alternative that limits mining activities to 3 years, rather than the proposed action which would allow mining for 25 years, and an alternative that considers limiting the size of the operation to five tons.
5. The EIS should include an economic analysis of the environmental costs to the fishing industry and local tourism because of the increased levels of toxic suspended sediment in Canyon Creek and the Trinity River and the ugly blight that will be created on the way to a popular wilderness trailhead.
6. The EIS should include a full cumulative effects analysis of all past, present and future foreseeable actions within Canyon Creek and within the Trinity River system in terms of mining, roadbuilding, logging, and recreation and their impacts on water quality, aquatic and terrestrial wildlife.
7. The EIS should include a full health risk assessment for the project, including impacts from resuspending mercury in the aquatic environment through soil disturbance, and should fully disclose all of the health risks associated with ingesting water, fish, plant material, or in any way being exposed to elevated levels of mercury as a result of the project.
8. The EIS should disclose if any water withdrawals will be required from Canyon Creek as part of mining activities, and the impacts these withdrawals may have on the aquatic environment and anadromous fisheries.

OK



**American Lands  
ALLIANCE**

Christine Ambrose  
California Organizer  
827 Broadway #310  
Oakland, CA 94607  
Phone: 510-622-0010  
Fax: 510-622-0278  
christine@americanlands.org

Randi Spivak  
Executive Director  
726 7<sup>th</sup> Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20003

*Board of Directors:*

Michael Kellett  
Concord, Massachusetts  
Susan Jane Brown  
Hood River, Oregon  
Brett Brownscomb  
La Grande, Oregon  
Timothy J. Coleman  
Republic, Washington  
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Tucson, Arizona  
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Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Todd Schulke  
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Judith Holyoke Schoyer Rodd  
Charleston, West Virginia  
Bethanie Walder  
Missoula, Montana  
Beth Wheatley  
Charleston, West Virginia  
Randall White  
Atlanta, Georgia

[The scope and magnitude of the project outlined in the scoping document will certainly result in significant adverse environmental effects, requiring the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. The impacts of this project, combined with past impacts in the watershed from logging, grazing, roadbuilding, and recreation are significant.] O

In summary, [we oppose the proposed actions in the scoping document] and urge you to develop [P an alternative management plan for the area based on restoring aquatic processes and watershed function.

The following are more specific comments regarding the proposal:

[• **Need to avoid roadless and controversial areas.**

We are concerned that large mature trees will be logged adjacent to the Trinity Alps Wilderness as part of mining activities. While logging may or may not be within an inventoried roadless area, we are concerned that they are located directly adjacent to them and along roads that segment them. We strongly object to any activities within any de-facto "roadless" areas, whether inventoried or not.] Q

[• **Need to provide adequate numbers of snags and coarse woody debris.**

The scoping document fails to address the retention of large trees, snags, and coarse woody debris in the project that could serve as recruitment material for Canyon Creek. The EIS must analyze and disclose the effects of removing this woody material.] R

[• **Need to avoid ground disturbance.**

We are concerned about the impacts of open pit mining on recovery processes in Canyon Creek and the Trinity River system. This needs to be addressed in the EIS.] S

## **ROADS AND ACCESS MANAGEMENT**

[• **Roads and access management is the highest priority for addressing watershed impacts.**

Open pit mining is one of the most destructive activities that could be proposed in the watershed, yet the USFS is proposing to authorize 22 acres of highly destructive activities in a riparian zone adjacent to a Wild and Scenic River. This is clearly in violation of the Shasta-Trinity Land Resource Management Plan.] T

## **THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE SPECIES**

We are concerned about potential impacts to TES plant, animal, and fish species within the project area. Open pit mining is "likely to adversely affect" federally threatened coho and northern spotted owl and their critical habitat because of the destruction of forest and riparian vegetation. The proposed actions would certainly result in a "may affect, likely to adversely affect" determination, and possibly cause jeopardy to the northern spotted owl and coho, as well as other federally, state listed, and Forest Service sensitive species. We do not believe that additional impacts to these species are acceptable. The EIS must address the cumulative impacts within the project area. U V

## **SURVEY AND MANAGE**

We are concerned about compliance with all provisions of the Survey and Manage requirements of the Northwest Forest Plan. As stated above, the project area contains intact suitable habitat. This issue must be addressed. W

## **LATE SUCCESSIONAL RESERVES**

We are concerned that LSR objectives and standards and guidelines for protecting late-successional and old-growth habitat and associated species will not be met by the proposed project. This issue must also be addressed in the EIS. V

## **WATER QUALITY AND THE AQUATIC CONSERVATION STRATEGY**

We are concerned about water quality and compliance with the Aquatic Conservation Strategy. The EIS must demonstrate how the Clean Water Act, the ACS, and the Porter-Cologne Acts will be complied with, including non-degradation standards. We do not believe that the proposed project, if implemented, will meet these requirements, and that substantial changes must be made to ensure that water quality and ACS standards are met.

The project must comply with the North Coast Region Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan), and all applicable water quality standards. While there are several water quality objectives in Section 3 of the Basin Plan which apply to all projects, the following turbidity objective is most applicable for timber harvest and fire salvage or rehabilitation projects: "*Turbidity shall not be increased more than 20 percent above naturally occurring background levels.*" The EIS must disclose how this specific water quality standard will be met.

The Basin Plan also states that "*controllable water quality factors shall conform to the water quality objectives contained herein. When other factors result in the degradation of water quality beyond the levels or limits established herein as water quality objectives, then controllable factors shall not cause further degradation of water quality. Controllable water quality factors are those actions, conditions, or circumstances resulting from man's activities that may influence the quality of the waters of the State and that may be reasonably controlled.*" Controllable water quality factors include actions, conditions, and circumstances resulting from salvage or other activities. The EIS must disclose how the project will prevent additional water quality degradation.

Experience in the Klamath and Trinity River basins demonstrate that winter operations often result in significant compaction, erosion, and sedimentation. In most cases, the "Best Management Practice" is to avoid winter operations altogether. The EIS must fully assess and disclose potential impacts resulting from winter operations and provide an alternative which is limited to the "normal operating period."

The project area is located within the Trinity River watershed, which is listed as impaired due to excessive sediment under Section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act. The Trinity River and its tributaries are also part of an Evolutionary Significant Unit for which Coho salmon have been listed as endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Due to the impaired condition of the Trinity River and its tributaries, any discharge or threatened discharge from project operations that are not reasonably controlled in the watershed are considered to be in quantities deleterious to the beneficial uses in violation of the Basin Plan prohibitions. This project must therefore protect the watershed from further inputs of sediment from controllable sources and efforts must be made to restore any impaired beneficial uses.

We strongly object to any logging within riparian reserves. The EIS must identify all riparian reserves within the project area and protect them, including unstable and potentially unstable areas, seeps, springs, ponds, bogs, wet meadows, and stream channels.  X

## ECONOMICS

- **Need to specify that a "cost-effective" mining program is one that has the least net expenditures to taxpayers, not simply generates the most gross revenues to federal Bureaucracies, and does not externalize costs to the ecosystem or Future generations.**

The proposed project should use the most cost-effective means available to reduce fuels for community protection. Unfortunately, past Forest Service NEPA analyses have traditionally been skewed in favor of commercial logging under the flawed assumption that timber revenues defray some or all of the costs of fuels management. On the contrary, the TSPIRS Report has revealed that the commercial timber program is a net money loser. Moreover, the net effects of mining results in externalized costs to the ecosystem and future generations because mining reduces the value of non-commodity resources (e.g. biodiversity, water quality, etc.) and subsequently raises the overall costs of future ecosystem restoration.

The EIS should honestly compare the total, net cost differences between open pit mining, the effectiveness of reclamation and potential compliance, and potential increased levels of toxic waste. Therefore, the EIS needs to deliver a full and honest accounting of what constitutes the most "cost-effective" and environmentally-sound method for mining and restoration of aquatic habitat and maintenance of Wilderness values and Wild and Scenic River values in the area.  Y

## INVASIVE WEED SPECIES

It is important to control the spread of undesirable plant species. Surveys of high-risk locations should be completed, and the development of a management strategy to address this significant threat. This is an immediate, high risk issue. However, the proposed project fails to include any actions to address it. Have the surveys been completed, and has a management strategy been

actions to address it. Have the surveys been completed, and has a management strategy been completed? If not, then why? The EIS must assess the risks to the watershed from invasive species and develop actions to address them. Conversely, if no actions are taken to address invasive weeds, the EIS must address the consequences of "no action" in regards to this threat. ] v

## MONITORING

The EIS must disclose the results of any monitoring that has been accomplished, and what additional monitoring will be conducted for this project.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we strongly object to the proposed project, and believe that significant changes must be made in order to address open pit mining, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Wilderness values, and recreational values in Canyon Creek. We urge you to drop the proposed project and develop an alternative focused on watershed recovery. ] z

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. We look forward to seeing the above issues and concerns worked into the Draft EIS.

Sincerely,



Christine Ambrose



CALIFORNIA  
WILDERNESS  
COALITION

*The Voice for Wild California*

May 17, 2004

Mike Mitchell, Project Leader  
Weaverville Ranger Station  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Subject: Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

On behalf of the California Wilderness Coalition (CWC), I am writing to express my concern regarding the Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims. As you are aware, this area displays unique wilderness qualities and a project of this nature would detrimentally impact these qualities. CWC is opposed to the project, and request that you consider the following: A

1. The environmental and health impacts are so destructive and significant that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should be required. This would need to consider the entire scope of the project and that all project activities be analyzed in one NEPA document. B
2. The EIS should include a full range of alternatives, including the no action alternative, an alternative that considers limiting the size of the operation to five tons, and complete restoration of the site and bioremediation of mercury and other leachates in the soil as part of all alternatives, rather than allowing further destructive mining to occur. All alternatives should require full remediation and that a bond be posted for all mining activities to ensure that the site is cleaned up and properly restored after mining activities are completed. B C
3. The EIS should include an alternative that does not impact any portion of the riparian zone, and instead concentrates all mining activities away from the riparian area, as well as alternatives that do not impact visual qualities, scenery, and Wild and Scenic River values. B D E F
4. The EIS should include an alternative that limits mining activities to 3 years, rather than the proposed action which would allow mining for 25 years. B
5. The EIS should include an economic analysis of the environmental costs to the fishing industry and local tourism because of the increased levels of toxic suspended sediment in Canyon Creek and the Trinity River and the ugly blight that will be created on the way to a popular wilderness trailhead. B G H I
6. The EIS should include a full cumulative effects analysis of all past, present and future foreseeable actions within Canyon Creek and within the Trinity River system in terms of mining, roadbuilding, logging, and recreation and their impacts on water quality, aquatic and terrestrial wildlife. B J K L M N
7. The EIS should include a full health risk assessment for the project, including impacts from resuspending mercury in the aquatic environment through soil disturbance, and should fully disclose all of the health risks associated with ingesting water, fish, plant material, or in any way being exposed to elevated levels of mercury as a result of the project. B O P

8. The EIS should disclose if any water withdrawals will be required from Canyon Creek as part of mining activities, and the impacts these withdrawals may have on the aquatic environment and anadromous fisheries. B Q

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Pete Nichols, Science Coordinator  
California Wildlands Project  
California Wilderness Coalition



**CALIFORNIA  
WILDERNESS  
COALITION**

*The Voice for Wild California*

# FAX

**To:** Mike Mitchell, Project Leader  
Weaverville Ranger Station / 530 . 623 . 6010

**From:** Pete Nichols, Science Coordinator.  
California Wildlands Project, CWC  
Eureka Field Office  
315 P Street  
Eureka, CA 95501  
707.442.8992  
[pnichols@calwild.org](mailto:pnichols@calwild.org)

**Subject:** Trinity 1-8 Mining Claims

Mr. Mitchell,

Attached are comments regarding the Trinity 1-8 Mining Claims. Please include me in any future correspondence regarding this project and other projects of this nature.

Thank you.

Pete

May 18, 2004

Mike Mitchell, Project Leader  
Weaverville Ranger Station  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Re: Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims

Dear Ms. Anderson and Mr. McLean,

The Environmental Protection Information Center (“EPIC”) submits the following comments in response to the Forest Service’s public scoping letter for the proposed “Trinity 1-8” placer mining project in the Big East Fork of Canyon Creek. This proposed project would involve “excavating one test pit of 100 feet wide, 300 feet long, and 40 feet deep.” EPIC believes this proposed mining operation has great potential to cause undue harm to our public trust resources, and requests the following issues be considered and addressed in any future related decisions.

[We are opposed to the project as we presently understand it.] [We are keenly interested in how the Forest Service decides to deal with this project, and want to underline that is critical that a federal action with the potential negative effects on the environment of this one must be documented and analyzed in a full environmental impact statement (EIS).] [A] [B]

### **General Comments**

[The scoping letter provides minimal information at best, failing to adequately describe the proposed project, its purpose or need, or the decision being made by the Forest Service. It fails to reflect the Forest Service’s obligation to prevent unnecessary degradation of public lands, wildlife, and other key resources by destructive mining practices.] [C]

### **Range of Alternatives**

[The EIS must reflect a full range of alternatives, including the no action alternative. We request that every action alternative require full functional restoration of the area to be degraded by the proposed mining. This should include complete restoration of the site and bioremediation of mercury and other leachates in the soil. All action alternatives should provide that a fully adequate bond be posted for all mining activities to ensure that the site is cleaned up and properly restored after mining activities are completed.] [B] [D]

### **Cumulative Impacts and Project Segmentation**

[The EIS must fully disclose and analyze all the impacts from the proposed project, including direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts. The Forest Service must disclose and analyze the effects of the proposed project in combination with the impacts of historical mining, current mining, and projected mining activities. The proposed project must be considered in its entirety, including

any and all future mining projects that would be enabled by its authorization. Any analysis must not be segmented in any form and must include all consequences of its authorization. B E

### **Water Quality and Aquatic Habitat**

C Canyon Creek is a critical cold-water tributary to the severely impaired Klamath-Trinity River Basin. EPIC is concerned the proposed mining would degrade the beneficial uses of this key watershed, discharging sediment, temperature, and chemical pollution to waters that should provide refugia habitat for the recovery of listed salmon species. The Forest Service must fully disclose and analyze potential impacts to this important watershed and downstream watershed resources. The Forest Service must fully evaluate potential impacts to such species as the spring run population of Chinook salmon, which is returning at an alarmingly low number in Canyon Creek and throughout the Klamath-Trinity watershed, and ensure the proposed mining would not impede the recovery of these species. The Forest Service must also fully describe how it would ensure that riparian reserves are protected, the goals and objectives of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy are achieved, and the habitat of Chinook salmon, coho salmon, steelhead trout, and other imperiled aquatic species is maintained and restored. F G

D The EIS should include an alternative that does not impact any portion of the riparian zone, and instead concentrates all mining activities away from the riparian area, as well as alternatives that do not impact visual qualities, scenery, and Wild and Scenic River values. The EIS should include an economic analysis of the environmental costs to the fishing industry and local tourism because of the increased levels of toxic suspended sediment in Canyon Creek and the Trinity River and the ugly blight that will be created on the way to a popular wilderness trailhead. B H I J K

### **Wild and Scenic Canyon Creek**

E The Land and Resource Management Plan identifies Canyon Creek as a candidate for designation under the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and states that it will be managed as such until said designation occurs. Any future environmental analysis of this proposed mining operation must disclose potential impacts to the wild and scenic characteristics of Canyon Creek and ensure these values remain undiminished. The EIS should disclose if any water withdrawals will be required from Canyon Creek as part of mining activities, and the impacts these withdrawals may have on the aquatic environment and anadromous fisheries. J L M

### **Scope and Impacts of Project**

F The EIS should include an alternative that limits mining activities to 3 years, rather than the proposed action which would allow mining for 25 years, and an alternative that considers limiting the size of the operation to five tons. B

G The EIS should include a full health risk assessment for the project, including impacts from resuspending mercury in the aquatic environment through soil disturbance, and should fully disclose all of the health risks associated with ingesting water, fish, plant material, or in any way being exposed to elevated levels of mercury as a result of the project. B N

## Compliance with Applicable Laws and Regulations

The Forest Service must demonstrate compliance with all applicable laws, including the National Forest Management Act; the National Environmental Policy Act; the federal Endangered Species Act; §§ 401, 404 and the antidegradation policy of the Clean Water Act; the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act; the California Fish and Game Code; and the California Environmental Quality Act. B

EPIC is very concerned with and interested in this proposed mining operation, and requests to be notified of any further developments regarding it. We appreciate your time and consideration of our comments, and urge the Forest Service to take every effort to protect and restore this critically important watershed. O

Sincerely,



Scott Greacen

National Forest Program Coordinator  
Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC)  
P.O. Box 397, Garberville, CA 95542  
(707) 923-2931, Fax 923-4210

scott@wildcalifornia.org



Justin Scheck  
<jscheck@sbcglobal.net>  
07/08/2004 03:42 PM

To mitchell@fs.fed.us  
cc  
bcc  
Subject canyon creek mine

Mike:

I appreciate your help. Please send the plan of operations and a list of the specialists doing the various studies to:

Justin Scheck  
1280 A Dolores Street  
San Francisco, Ca  
94110

Thanks-

Justin Scheck

Michael Mitchell  
Shasta-Trinity National Forest  
PO Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

We are writing because we are deeply concerned about the gold mining proposal for the Trinity Alps. Canyon Creek is a jewel in California's crown and we believe it would be a crime to open the area to the excavation of gold by the Texas Company, Master Petroleum.

We know Canyon Creek as a historic and beautiful place, the gateway to the stunningly beautiful Trinity Alps Wilderness. Once a place for gold prospecting and excavation, the valley north of Junction City, about 10 miles west of Weaverville, is just now beginning to recover from the hydraulic gold mining that stripped its slopes and flats down to bedrock a hundred years ago. What a shame it would be to invite renewed environmental degradation by Master Petroleum. Master Petroleum's plan for development includes a series of open pit mines in the Canyon Creek watershed aiming to excavate 1.5 million tons of soil on 22 acres of public land, just outside of the wilderness boundary.

Already the assault on Canyon Creek has begun. Recently, the Forest Service gave its go-ahead to dig a "test pit" on the banks of Canyon Creek. A coalition of environmental groups filed a federal lawsuit to halt the digging of this pit, the site for which contains many huge old-growth trees. These groups stand ready to challenge any moves to actually cut the trees and dig the pit as Master Petroleum furthers its plans.

We are strongly opposed to any further gold mine development in the Canyon Creek area by Master Petroleum or any other mining interest. Canyon Creek is worth so much more in its protected and restored state than it could ever be worth as a gold mine. As it becomes available please notify us about the release of the Environmental Impact Statement for this project.

Sincerely,

Madeleine Sone  
Jeff Hrdlicka  
Ellen Memon  
Mary H. Wright  
James Samps  
Natalie Royer

Nancy Fitzpatrick  
Bridget Beestman  
Laura Beesaw  
David R. Bush  
Cheryl Berry  
Dale Luehman  
Merry Padgett

## Appendix C - Summary of Non-Governmental Organization Comments

AC#	Non-Governmental Organization	Comment Date	Purpose & Need of Project	Project Description & Alternatives	Land Use	Geology, Fluvial Geomorphology, & Soils	Water Resources	Water Quality	Fishery Resources	Vegetation, Wildlife, & Wetlands	Recreation	Socioeconomics, Population, & Housing	Tribal Trust	Cultural Resources	Air Quality	Environmental Justice	Hazardous Materials	Noise	Public Services, Utilities & Energy	Visual/Aesthetics	Transportation & Traffic	Cumulative Impacts	Scoping	Other Comments	Oppose Project	Mailing List
1	Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC) & Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center (KS Wild)	7/26/04	M	J, L, N		R	D, S	E	G, O	P	A, T		H	B		F, Q						K	C	U, V, W, X, Y, Z	I	
2	South Fork Trinity River Land Conservancy	8/31/04				E, I	H	F	B	C, J	D					G								A		K
3	Earthworks	8/30/04		B, P, S		O	L	J	K	C, I	H, N, R			G		M	D		F	E	Q	A				
4	Organization to Preserve Trinity County (OPTC)	8/23/04				G		E		C, D, F									H					A, B, I		
5	Klamath Forest Alliance (KFA)	8/30/04		J		B, H, P	F, K	V	G, N	D, I, M, U	C, E	R		W					Q	T	L, S			A, O		
6	Friends of the Trinity River	8/26/04		A, E, G		B		C	D															F, H		
7	South Fork Trinity River Land Conservancy	8/23/04				E, J	I	H	B	C, K	A					G								D		L
8	South Fork Trinity River Land Conservancy	6/21/04				E	H		B	C, G	A					F								D		I
9	Mendocino Forest Watch	8/12/04		C		E		H	I	D, G	A, F													B, J		
10	Northcoast Environmental Center	5/10/04		A, G, K, L, O, Q		R	J	D, F	M	N		E		H		I				P	C			B		S
11	American Lands Alliance	5/20/05		A		S	G, L, X	M, U	C, K, V	E, H, R	F, N, Y					B			D	J, Q, T	I	O	W, Z	P		
12	California Wilderness Coalition (CWC)	5/17/04		B		O		N	Q	D, L	F, I, M	G, P				C			E, H	K	J				A	
13	Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC)	5/19/04		B		L	F	G, M	H	J	K, N					D			I		E	C		A	O	
14	Eco-Watch/Sonoma	11/22/04								B									A					C	D	E
<b>TOTAL NON-BLANKS</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>

## APPENDIX D

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### Letters from Individuals and Spreadsheets

November 5, 2004

Ms. J. Sharon Heywood  
Forest Supervisor  
3644 Avtech Parkway  
Redding, CA 96002

Adam Garson  
11720 Bellagio Rd #205  
Los Angeles, CA 90049

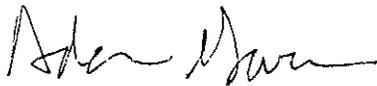
RE: Open-Pit Mining

Dear Ms. Heywood:

As a Californian concerned about our environment, I am strongly opposed to Master Petroleum's claim to allow open-pit mines near the Trinity Wilderness area. As the Forest Supervisor responsible for this land, I hope you will continue to protect California's wilderness.

If possible, I would be very interested in hearing back from your department on this issue. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Adam Garson

c: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

Michael Mitchell  
Shasta-Trinity National Forest  
PO Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

12/13/04

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

We are writing because we are deeply concerned about the gold mining proposal for the Trinity Alps. Canyon Creek is a jewel in California's crown and we believe it would be a crime to open the area to the excavation of gold by the Texas Company, Master Petroleum. A

We know Canyon Creek as a historic and beautiful place, the gateway to the stunningly beautiful Trinity Alps Wilderness. Once a place for gold prospecting and excavation, the valley north of Junction City, about 10 miles west of Weaverville, is just now beginning to recover from the hydraulic gold mining that stripped its slopes and flats down to bedrock a hundred years ago. What a shame it would be to invite renewed environmental degradation by Master Petroleum. Master Petroleum's plan for development includes a series of open pit mines in the Canyon Creek watershed aiming to excavate 1.5 million tons of soil on 22 acres of public land, just outside of the wilderness boundary. D

Already the assault on Canyon Creek has begun. Recently, the Forest Service gave its go-ahead to dig a "test pit" on the banks of Canyon Creek. A coalition of environmental groups filed a federal lawsuit to halt the digging of this pit, the site for which contains many huge old-growth trees. These groups stand ready to challenge any moves to actually cut the trees and dig the pit as Master Petroleum furthers its plans. F

We are strongly opposed to any further gold mine development in the Canyon Creek area by Master Petroleum or any other mining interest. Canyon Creek is worth so much more in its protected and restored state than it could ever be worth as a gold mine. As it becomes available please notify us about the release of the Environmental Impact Statement for this project. H

Sincerely,

My January Plawke

Dennis requested Thashie letter for  
Test Pit be added to the EIS. scoping, during  
scoping meeting

Dennis R Corp  
Box 1726  
Weaverville, CA, 96093

28 August, 2003

Joyce Andersen, District Ranger  
Re: file 2810 Trinity 1—8 Placer Mining Claims

Dear Ms Andersen:

This is with regard to your scoping letter of 7 August, 2003, proposing to authorize mineral sampling "on the Big East Fork of Canyon Creek."

- For what reason would additional, and apparently much larger, sampling be necessary, when at least two "test pits" have been previously authorized? What were the results, of the previous "exploration of valuable mineral deposits"? **A**
  - Where on the East Fork? No map accompanies the letter. **B**
  - Upon what would the public be commenting? Virtually no usable information is conveyed to those being "scoped" which might be used as the basis for comment.
  - What public is being "scoped"? How many letters were sent, and to whom?
  - In the absence of sufficient information in the scoping letter, and given that the letter appears not to have been widely circulated by the Forest Service, a 23 day comment period is not sufficient. You should withdraw the letter, and start over, with more detailed information, and a substantially longer comment period.
  - You should have in your possession my responses to the two previous scoping letters on this project, in 1998 and 1999. I incorporate them into this response by reference. **C**
  - At the time two previous samplings were authorized, in 1999, the Forest Service also promised an environmental impact statement on the project. That EIS seems to have disappeared from your list of plans and projects. What is going on here? Where is it? Is this an attempt to allow mining "test" by "test"? **D** Does this remain a proposed mining project? Or does the proponent have something else in mind? It is your responsibility to see that we have full disclosure as to the nature of the proponent's plans for these claims on public land. **E**
  - Can the Forest Service display compliance with its own requirements in this tier one key watershed?
  - Is your watershed analysis complete for this watershed, and has it been updated to account for the events you propose to authorize? **F**
  - What are the mitigations? How does the Forest Service intend to assure that the area affected by any operations is left undegraded, or improved? Certainly you would not care to use the results of previous high bench placer operations in the drainage as examples. **G** What of cumulative effects, over time, of this and possible future operations? **H**
  - Can the Forest Service display biological opinions from other concerned agencies? **I**
- J** Thank you for your attention. I will be interested to receive a response. **J**

Dennis R. Corp

LETTER 3

Michael Mitchell  
Shasta-Trinity National Forest  
PO Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

We are writing because we are deeply concerned about the gold mining proposal for the Trinity Alps. Canyon Creek is a jewel in California's crown and we believe it would be a crime to open the area to the excavation of gold by the Texas Company, Master Petroleum. A

We know Canyon Creek as a historic and beautiful place, the gateway to the stunningly beautiful Trinity Alps Wilderness. Once a place for gold prospecting and excavation, the valley north of Junction City, about 10 miles west of Weaverville, is just now beginning to recover from the hydraulic gold mining that stripped its slopes and flats down to bedrock a hundred years ago. What a shame it would be to invite renewed environmental degradation by Master Petroleum. Master Petroleum's plan for development includes a series of open pit mines in the Canyon Creek watershed aiming to excavate 1.5 million tons of soil on 22 acres of public land, just outside of the wilderness boundary. F B C D E

Already the assault on Canyon Creek has begun. Recently, the Forest Service gave its go-ahead to dig a "test pit" on the banks of Canyon Creek. A coalition of environmental groups filed a federal lawsuit to halt the digging of this pit, the site for which contains many huge old-growth trees. These groups stand ready to challenge any moves to actually cut the trees and dig the pit as Master Petroleum furthers its plans. H G

We are strongly opposed to any further gold mine development in the Canyon Creek area by Master Petroleum or any other mining interest. Canyon Creek is worth so much more in its protected and restored state than it could ever be worth as a gold mine. As it becomes available please notify us about the release of the Environmental Impact Statement for this project. J I

Sincerely,

*Lillian Rhinehart*  
*Charles A. Rhinehart*



Lillian Rhinehart  
1475 Los Alamos Rd.  
Santa Rosa, CA 95409

340-G Union St.  
Arcata CA 95521  
September 25, 2004

Mr. Michael Mitchell  
Shasta-Trinity NF  
POB 1190  
Weaverville CA

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Please accept these comments regarding the misguided and destructive plan to allow gold mining in the Canyon Creek Watershed. I am asking the Forest Service to withdraw permission for a test pit or any activity on this public site before the EIS is completed. Destroyed old growth at the test-pit site cannot be replaced!

The entire plan would cause unacceptable damage to a very important salmon stream and to a beautiful area loved by many in this area for its natural values.

If the EIS is not corrupted by political influence, I am sure it will uphold the environmental protections and deny the project. Please notify me when the EIS is available for review and please do your best to protect Canyon Creek.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Jeannie Pendergast



Mike Mitchell  
<mitchell@fs.fed.us>  
11/19/2004 08:40 AM

To schilcott@fs.fed.us  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Fw: Nov. 11 Newsletter

Sherry: Please add to public comments file.

Thanks. Mike

----- Forwarded by Mike Mitchell/R5/USDAFS on 11/19/2004 08:39 AM -----

Larry  
McLean/R5/USDAFS

11/19/2004 08:21  
AM

Mike Mitchell/R5/USDAFS@FSNOTES  
To  
cc  
Subject  
Fw: Nov. 11 Newsletter

----- Forwarded by Larry McLean/R5/USDAFS on 11/19/2004 08:32 AM -----

"Gay Berrien"  
<gberrien@snowcrest.net>

11/18/2004 08:40  
PM

"Larry McLean" <lmclean@fs.fed.us>  
To  
cc  
Subject  
Fw: Nov. 11 Newsletter

I hope this doesn't sound too bad to you, but I responded to the newsletter....

----- Original Message -----

From: Gay Berrien  
To: bw13@comcast.net

Sent: Thursday, November 18, 2004 8:31 PM  
Subject: Nov. 11 Newsletter

I have a comment regarding the newsletter for Friends of the Trinity River that I received in the mail yesterday.

On the column about the proposed mining operation up Canyon Creek, I am wondering where you got your information. [A] Since there are only between 10,000 to 13,000 people in Trinity County (I've forgotten what the last census said, but I know it's been going down again because of our economy), 1700 unfavorable responses sound like an unbelievable amount from a population so small. [B] I called a Forest Service officer who has been working on the EIS, and he said the Forest Service received 200 letters total so far. [C] There has also been some sort of telephone activity going on, with some groups apparently initiating largescale telephone calls to the FS, but it is doubtful many of these are Trinity County residents. [D]

[E] The Canyon Creek watershed has been vastly mined in historic times, both placer along the streams, and hardrock up higher. [F] There were probably few trees along the creek during that time period--all used for mining and residential purposes--so the oldgrowth trees that were cut during the test were probably some growing since then. [G]

[H] Because there has been extensive mining activity does not mean that at this time we should continue mining with no thought to the quality of the environment, but it also should not mean we can't continue to utilize the National Forest for mineral extraction within reasonable guidelines. [I] This is what the National Forest was made for--for the public's use as well as enjoyment of its environment. National Parks and Wilderness Areas were set aside on more restricted guidelines. [J]

Perhaps you could clarify this for the next newsletter. Larry McLean of the Forest Service at Weaverville (Trinity River Management Unit) could answer your questions regarding the project. His phone number is 530-623-1767. If he is not available, perhaps Larry's supervisor, Mike Mitchell (530-623-1760) could help.



Mike Mitchell  
 <mmitchell@fs.fed.us>  
 11/19/2004 08:40 AM

To schilcott@fs.fed.us  
 cc  
 bcc  
 Subject Fw: Friends of Trinity River Newsletter

----- Forwarded by Mike Mitchell/R5/USDAFS on 11/19/2004 08:40 AM -----

Larry  
 McLean/R5/USDAFS

11/19/2004 08:19  
 AM

To Mike Mitchell/R5/USDAFS@FSNOTES  
 cc  
 Subject  
 Fw: Friends of Trinity River  
 Newsletter

----- Forwarded by Larry McLean/R5/USDAFS on 11/19/2004 08:31 AM -----

"Gay Berrien"  
 <gberrien@snowcrest.net>

11/18/2004 08:04  
 PM

To "Larry McLean" <lmclean@fs.fed.us>  
 cc  
 Subject  
 Friends of Trinity River Newsletter

Larry, here is the column about the Canyon Creek mining that appears in the recent November 11, 2004 Friends of the Trinity River Newsletter, published by Friends of the Trinity River, P.O. Box 2327, Mill Valley, CA 94942-2327, which has a connection with CalTrout:

Proposed Canyon Creek Gold Mining

We also wrote extensive scoping comments for the Canyon Creek Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be prepared for a proposed 25 acre gold mining operation on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) land adjoining the creek. That H

operation, if allowed to proceed without establishing major requirements protecting the creek and land, could result in significant adverse impacts to Trinity River. The creek is a tributary of the Trinity. IJ

The USFS has allowed the felling of trees, including old growth, on a five-acre "test site," while the EIS barely has begun to be developed. A significant number of Trinity County residents--some 1,700--have commented unfavorably on the proposed mining operation. Under federal law dating back to 1872, the USFS has little choice about the granting of a mining permit. However, it can establish all necessary conditions under which potential damage must be contained and/or repaired, and require the posting of a bond to ensure fulfillment of its conditions. L



Mike Mitchell  
 <mmitchell@fs.fed.us>  
 11/19/2004 08:43 AM

To jandersen@fs.fed.us, schilcott@fs.fed.us, modle@fs.fed.us,  
 jschuyler@fs.fed.us, Kevin L McIver <kmciver@fs.fed.us>  
 cc  
 bcc  
 Subject Fw: Friends of Trinity River Newsletter

All the more need to get the Trinity 1-8 "facts sheet" distributed. More  
 posting of inaccurate information.

Mike

----- Forwarded by Mike Mitchell/R5/USDAFS on 11/19/2004 08:41 AM -----

Larry  
 McLean/R5/USDAFS

11/19/2004 08:19  
 AM

To  
 Mike Mitchell/R5/USDAFS@FSNOTES  
 cc  
 Subject  
 Fw: Friends of Trinity River  
 Newsletter

----- Forwarded by Larry McLean/R5/USDAFS on 11/19/2004 08:31 AM -----

"Gay Berrien"  
 <gberrien@snowcre  
 st.net>

11/18/2004 08:04  
 PM

To  
 "Larry McLean" <lmclean@fs.fed.us>  
 cc  
 Subject  
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August 26, 2004

U.S. Forest Service  
Weaverville Station  
210 Main St.  
Weaverville, CA 96093

To Whom It May Concern,

As residents of Trinity County and Junction City, we would like to take this opportunity to add our concern about the pending 22 acre mining operation by Master Petroleum near Canyon Creek. Our concern mostly stems from the size of the initial bond that the company will post towards restoration of the area to be mined, as well as concern about whether a clear and specific plan for restoration will be offered by the company. We also have concerns that the water flows to the creek in the low flow months of the year not be markedly decreased by the proposed 190,000 gallons of water allowed to Master Petroleum each day during the mining operation.

Sincerely,

Kim McLaughlin  
Kim McLaughlin

Paula Bauer

Jill Bauer

Diane Turner

Jina Phelan

Bodhi Montgomery



Pelican Network  
<rocinante@pelicannet  
work.net>

08/26/2004 04:35 PM  
Please respond to  
rocinante

To: Cheryl Kochenderfer <ckochenderfer@fs.fed.us>, Mike Mitchell  
<mmitchell@fs.fed.us>  
cc:  
Subject: Canyon Creek

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
(fshrmn86@snowcrest.net) on Thursday, August 26, 2004 at 15:15:25

Dear: U.S. Forest Service, and the public!

Robin Krumbholz and  
John C. Schmidt  
31019 Grasshopper Flat Rd.  
Junction City, CA  
(10.2 miles up Canyon Creek,

Directly across the canyon from the current open pit mine, 40 acres, which  
was

public land before the gold claim was incorporated, making it private land! A

The  
open pits, I believe are listed as 23 acres on the proposed claims project. B

The  
amount of area involved in the claims is much greater and is all in danger of  
being incorporated also. Something over a contiguous hundred acres would then  
be held by this group. They would own both sides of Canyon Creek at the  
confluence of the East fork of Canyon Creek. The East fork runs right through  
their initial 40 acres. As private land there is much less control about  
their

next development. I was told, "They can do what ever they want. It's  
private

land." More open pits??? Why not an expensive private resort that most of us  
will never be able to afford. I believe it is Time to review Gold Claims in C

the  
area of water rights granted with them. Canyon Creek has been closed to D

fishing  
for many years as a wild salmon and steelhead spawning area. I can not fish  
there but the current open pit mine is using up the coldest water source  
entering Canyon Creek. This insures spawning area represented by Canyon creek  
will almost never be fully functional if at all. :>( Fshrmn John ) E

Dear Mr. Mitchell and the public!

This is our comment about the Master Petroleum proposal to devastate our  
beautiful neighborhood on Canyon Creek. The individuals comprising the  
"Master

Petroleum" group must be stopped. It is unthinkable that several of the very F

best swimming holes on the creek should be sacrificed to the greed of a few.  
This land is more valuable the way it is than any amount of gold. The water G

in  
the East fork of Canyon Creek is critical to the aquatic populations of the  
entire drainage, including Trinity River. The forest in the proposed mine H

site  
acreage is critical to indigenous flora and fauna, including rare and  
endangered

species. The serene quietness of the entire canyon is sought by people from I

the around the world, and must be preserved. The safety of people using J

Canyon  
Creek Road in their quest for beauty and recreation, as well as residents

accessing their homes, must supercede the foolish greed of rapacious

entrepreneurs from Texas. Now we will elaborate upon these topics: The swimming holes, the water, the forest, the serene quietness, and the road safety. KLM

Canyon creek has been the delight of generations of children on hot summer days. People of all ages love to swim and play in the pools and rapids. The preservation of the pristine beauty of Canyon Creek seems so evidentially important, that it is hard to write about, it ought to go without saying. How could anyone even think about replacing these areas with 23 acres of ugly to the bedrock? LM

The glacial water of the East fork of Canyon creek is from the coldest tributary remaining to the increasingly compromised Trinity/Klamath River fishery. Current usage of such valuable water for mining is already endangering the populations of trout, salmon, steelhead, other fish and amphibians, and indigenous aquatic flora and fauna of all sorts. More squandering of this precious resource is unthinkable. On the afternoon of Aug. 17 of this year we measured the water temperatures at area 4 of the proposed mine site. Canyon Creek above the confluence of the East Fork was 70 degrees F. The East Fork above the confluence was 63 degeesF. Below the confluence of the Main Canyon Creek and the East Fork, it was a significantly lower 68.5. As you are probably aware, these temperatures are dangerous to salmonids, as at 70 degrees F. they cease feeding, at 72 degrees F. they are subject to tissue deterioration. What percentage of the water from The East fork of Canyon ! N OP

Creek are the current mining operations already taking? How much more will they be allowed to squander? How can these questions be answered unless thorough measurements are made throughout the year, in late summer and early autumn as well as winter and spring, in drought as well as flood? Are current techniques at the mine being monitored to ensure the continuing life of the fish? Do they have adequate screens to prevent the fish from being sucked out of the creek? What precautions are being taken to protect the creek in flood time? We hiked along Canyon Creek in our rain gear in Early February of this year, and observed a dramatic increase in turbidity below the current mine site. The miners have been demonstrably careless of the environment in the past; they should not be allowed any further destruction. NO O P Q

The beautiful forest lining both sides of the Creek and Canyon Creek Road contains several species of large and old trees. The removal of these trees will significantly raise the temperature of the entire area, including the water. Will this constitute the taking of several species? How many species of rare and endangered amphibians, reptiles, insects, and plants will be affected? Who will benefit from the sale of these valuable trees that should be protected by law, because they are far more valuable for beautiful forest and wildlife habitat than as lumber? Could the lust for lumber income be the real reason that the Master Petroleum financiers are grabbing for this precious area? The Forest must be off limits to Master Petroleum. R RO

Noise pollution is a factor that must be investigated. Current mining operations already generate an intolerable racket. I have never seen a bald S

eagle while they are running their heavy equipment, although I often do see eagles and other large raptors during the times when the machinery is quiet.

I know most animals are more sensitive to sound than humans. This must be investigated. How does noise affect populations such as bats, which control moths, which damage the forest? Human beings are today in a critical state because of need for audial respite. Our own species must protect this beautiful canyon where the echoes of the rushing water sooth our ravaged ears.

ST

US

Now we will address our final point, and that is the condition and safety of Canyon Creek road. People in our neighborhood have been increasingly alarmed about speeding on our curvy mountain road. Many of the most carelessly driven vehicles seem to be coming and going from the existing mine. How many more gold fevered speeders can we expect to see careening around these blind curves? Our

county is in a desperate state with regard to finances available for road maintenance. How much heavy equipment and tons of earth can the old road, and the old bridges support? Has the condition of the metal bridge at mi. 10.5 been examined lately? Already landslide and rockfall pose serious hazard on Canyon Creek road. How will increased traffic and excavation affect the stability of the canyon walls? Master Petroleum must not be allowed to jeopardize public safety by abusing our road.

V

W

VW

In conclusion, we thank you for regarding our concerns, and need to further add, that we are the nearest human neighbors to the existing and proposed mine sites. If we can be of any further help to the forest service in stopping further degradation of our canyon, please let us know. We need to protect our recreational areas (swimminí holes), our water (habitat), our forest (ecosystem), our quietude (all those splashy sounds), and we need to be safe on our road to and from home.

Concerned Neighbors,  
Robin & John

My Name: Robin Krumbholz & John C. Schmidt

Address: Up Canyon Creek. "need a paddle"

-----

To Mike Mitchell

July 18, 2004 ✓

When I first moved to Northern California the first wilderness area that was shown to me was Canyon Creek. It is a recreational area where people come to enjoy this amazing wilderness. At this moment I am in area number two of the proposed mining site. I am cooled by the shade of the trees and can hear the roar of Canyon Creek below me. It is a truly beautiful place.

I am concerned with the impact that a mine will have on this fragile ecosystem. I have seen the old mining sites and the impact that they have. After twenty years and many attempts to restore the land it has failed. I don't want that to happen here. I am concerned with the impact the mine will have on the water quality of Canyon Creek, the vegetation, wildlife, and ability for people to come recreate and enjoy the beauty of this place.

I also have met the people who live in Canyon Creek and feel the pain that they are experiencing by the threat of destroying their backyard. This land as it is, is worth more than the monetary gain of gold to be extracted. I am in opposition to the open pit mining in Canyon Creek.

Sincerely,  
Mike Mitchell  
LETTER 9

Mr. Mitchell

8116104

I am concerned about the  
pit mining near Canyon Creek.  
Please do what you can to  
stop this environmentally harmful  
rape of the land. A  
Thank you Kay W. Male  
Eureka CA

Mike -

Here's another vote  
cast in opposition to  
the pit gold mine.

Keep up the good  
fight.

P. Girins AB  
Arcata CA.

Mike,

[NO MINING] anywhere  
near Canyon Creek. Please  
go away]. A

Lewis Wolf  
Eureka Co

[Mike — you CAN'T

allow pit mining  
in Canyon Creek] A

Kathryn Knight

8/15/04

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

I am greatly distressed about  
the proposed pit mining operation  
on Canyon Creek. Please do what  
you can to protect the environment  
of Trinity County and preserve  
its natural beauty.

Sincerely,

Jesse M. Wheeler

Save the Trinity Alps.

One of the most beautiful  
places on earth is no place  
for a large scale mining operation. A  
Canyon Creek must be saved.

Karl Ferguson

*Karl L. Ferguson*

Aug 15

Dear Mike Mitchell,

[ I am concerned that antiquated mining law will result in harm to the environment in the case of Canyon Creek Pit mine. ] A

Sincerely, Nelsen Bazill

I oppose the mining operation  
that may go in Canyon Creek. A

Please don't allow this to  
happen in this pristine  
area. B

Parale Eason

Dear Mike -

Can you legally stop  
the proposed mining on or  
near Canyon Creek? A

I hope so.

STEVEN LEE  
Box 533  
MILYEE, CA  
95563

The thought of Pit mining in Canyon  
Creek is appalling. Our area has finally  
started to recover from the years of  
mining and to stir up the ground  
now would have a very bad effect on  
the quality of air water and environment

AB

Danielle Ferguson

Danielle Ferguson

Mr. Mitchell

I AM TERRIBLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE  
PROPOSED MINING OPERATION BEING  
CONSIDERED. I DO NOT THINK IT  
SHOULD BE DONE AND I AM SURE  
THAT AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION  
THOSE WHO PROPOSE THIS PROJECT  
WILL ALSO AGREE WITH MY POSITION.  A  
THANK YOU. 

[Please do not mine the east  
fork of the Trinity river and  
canyon creek. I'm sure it will  
be regretted in future days.] A  
Please do not do this-

ERIN BRAZILL  
San Francisco, CA

Aug 15, 04

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I have recently moved to Junction City,  
directly downstream from the proposed open-pit  
mining sites being discussed, courtesy of Master  
Petroleum, Inc.

Canyon Creek runs right thru my property.

I have seen the results of former open-pit mining in this  
watershed and I am in complete opposition to any  
further large-scale mining on this creek. A

I moved to this area because of its quiet, mostly  
pristine environment. I can't believe that this ~~dump~~<sup>mine</sup> is B  
even being considered on this creek, since it is  
the coldest-water tributary entering the Trinity  
River, helping keep the salmon habitat better, and C  
this is very important. D The Federal gov't is putting  
lots of \$ money into creek and watershed restoration,  
and it sure seems counterproductive to me to

damage the water quality of the tributaries.  
The proposed mining would certainly drop the  
volume of water in Canyon Creek, as well  
as ~~the~~ increase sedimentation. E

All for what? So a Texas-based co.  
can profit by removing our local natural  
resources? —

Please, I urge you to not let this  
happen. I vote No More Open Pit Mining.

I may not be able to swim in my creek if more  
mercury ends up stirred back into the water.  
This directly affects my life. F

Thanks for doing the  
right thing —

Morgan Olson  
P.O. Box 56  
Junction City, CA  
96048

Caitlin E. Curran  
Co-Chairman, Canyon Creek Coalition  
59435 Canyon Creek Rd.  
Junction City, CA 96048  
530.623.3904

To: Mike Mitchell & Joyce Andersen  
PO Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Re: Master Petroleum proposal, Trinity 1-8 Mining Claims

Dear Mike Mitchell & Joyce Andersen,

I have been a resident of Canyon Creek all of my 27 years of life. [The value that this watershed holds for myself, my family, my neighbors, and all of the individuals that visit here, is immeasurable.] [I have 100% faith that your ranger district and all accompanying specialist and parties will do everything in their power to ensure all environmental laws and guidelines will be adhered to concerning the proposal by Master Petroleum Placer Mine 1-8. All of us that are concerned, tax paying, registered voters want "our" National Forest Land to receive the highest quality treatment, which brings me to my first point of discussion.] [A]

[It is understood that all projects, large or small, go through a lengthy series of studies. Please do not cut any corners, and complete all surveys, studies, tests, etc. Canyon Creek is too unique and biologically diverse to be neglected or shorted. I am trusting in you!] [C]

[I hope that the United States Forest Service and the Trinity River Restoration Program are working side-by-side on this proposal, because 150 million dollars is a large chunk of federal and tribal money to disregard.] [Please ensure that the anadromous fish will in absolutely **NO** way be affected or altered. The steelhead in Canyon Creek have been more prolific this year than I can ever remember.] [D]

[This area is heavily diverse in wildlife and botanical habitat. Please ensure that all endangered species, plants and animals, are protected and will not be adversely affected by a project of this scale.] [E]

[Many people (50% of Trinity Alps Wilderness users) love this area, not just the Wilderness but all that lies in close proximity to it. There is a large amount of Trinity, Humboldt and Shasta County residents that use Canyon Creek as a scenic drive on a Sunday afternoon. Trinity County has designated Canyon Creek as a "Scenic Roadway", and recommended that it be designated as a "Wild & Scenic River". This project should comply with all visual quality

standards, not just a meager 40ft. buffer that will do very little, and ultimately forever alter the aesthetic value of this area. GH

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that is scheduled to be drafted by next spring must have a thorough study of the water flows of the Big East Fork of Canyon Creek. 120,000-190,000 gallons of water per 8/hr. day seems like more than the largest tributary to Canyon Creek can handle. Please be very conservative on these estimates and studies.

The studies that will take place for the EIS and NEPA process must be very strict and thorough. Please leave nothing out. 25 years on 23 acres of land on one of the most sensitive areas (largest tributary to Canyon Creek) on the Canyon is an extremely lengthy and large proposal. I beg of you to analyze **EVERYTHING** and skip nothing. I

I have nothing personal against the proponents of this project. I believe that they are good people trying to make a living. I just do not see how this project can possibly happen. I feel that from past open-pit mines on the canyon that the bond amount should be quite large. \$2,000 is a penny in comparison to the value. What if something catastrophic happens, like the "100 year flood", we must make them put up a very large bond. J

The May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1872 mining law should not supersede the newer environmental laws and regulations. Please concur with all policies, acts and plans, and help prove that this area is valuable beyond measure and put an end to such a potentially disastrous plan. (Why not make this claim into campgrounds like Ripstein Campground? The USFS would definitely benefit from that!) K L

I know that you are both doing your jobs, and I'm sure doing them well, so please, please, please, do everything in your power to instruct mitigations properly so that this project will not proceed.

Thank you for your attention and time, it is truly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Caitlin E. Curran  
Co-Chairman,  
Canyon Creek Coalition

Mr. Mitchell -

HAVING VISITED THE PERTINENT SITES, I AM CONVINCED THAT THE MASTER PETROLEUM PROPOSAL TO MINE AT CANYON CREEK WOULD BE A DISASTER. PLEASE DO WHAT YOU CAN TO RESTORE A THIN PUBLIC FAITH IN OUR AGENCIES BY CANCELLING OR DRASTICALLY AMENDING THE PLAN. I AM PERSONALLY COMMITTED TO DO WHAT I CAN TO STOP THIS PROJECT - [ANYONE WHO APPROACHES THIS ISSUE WITH A RATIONAL, HUMAN SENSITIVITY TO THE IMPACTS IT WOULD HAVE ON THE LOCAL ECOSYSTEM AND THE RIVER SYSTEM IN GENERAL] MUST REALIZE THAT MASTER PETROLEUM HAS DEMONSTRATED ITS STRUCTURALLY ABSENT VESTED INTEREST IN THE HEALTH OF THE EARTH AND THE PEOPLE LIVING ON IT.

THANKS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

- CASEY CONNOR  
608 9th St.  
ARCATA, CA 95521

USFS

Mike Mitchell

PO Box #1190

Weaverville, CA 96093

July 2004

RE: Master Petroleum, Inc Open Pit Mine,  
Scoping Letter

Dear Sir,

I oppose the destruction of this pristine watershed by the proposed mine. A From living in this area in the 1950-60's, and now as a frequent visitor to this area, I have lamented the damage already caused by hydraulic and placer mining over the past two centuries. I am appalled at the possibility that this carnage would be allowed to continue - on my public land. B

The water diversion caused by the operation would take away from the already-stressed Trinity, whose flows are just 10% of normal! C

The added sediment and potential for toxic spills add to the risk. DE

This proposal is negligent, destructive, selfish and greedy, if not criminal. (over)

②

Please register my opposition to this proposed ~~in~~ the public record. I know that my voice represents that of 1,000's of similarly concerned citizens. A

Sincerely,  
Geoffrey D Smith

Geoffrey Smith

11572 Alkard Dr.

San Diego, CA 92126

858.566.5676, gsmith@thecomputer-smith.com

Principal, The Computer Smith Consulting

8-24

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

We have been residents of Trinity County, living up Canyon Creek road, for the last 24 years. We are very concerned about the proposed mining operation. We understand that in 1994 the Forest Service made a recommendation that Canyon Creek should be declared a wild and scenic river.

Because this creek is so special, shouldn't an environmental impact study have been completed on the test pit?

We sincerely hope that the study being undertaken soon will be thorough & will take into special consideration the effects this operation will have on the wildlife and habitat.

We thank you for  
considering our concerns.

MATTHEW LEFFLER CHRIS LEFFLER  
Matt Leffler Chris Leffler

SEPT 1, 04

MIKE MITCHELL  
PO Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Re: Master Petroleum plan for  
Open Pit Mining on Canyon  
Creek

DEAR MR. MITCHELL:

I am writing to express  
my opposition to the plan  
to mine Canyon Creek. A

Canyon Creek is a haven  
for wildlife, clean water  
and a respite and  
quiet place for residents  
of Trinity County. It BCD  
would be a terrible thing  
to have it destroyed for  
purposes of mining which  
will have small returns.

→

I hope you consider  
seriously not approving  
such a plan.

Thank you very much

Sincerely,

Shirley Walden

Lillian Valdes-Cruz  
20 Red Hill Road  
Junction City CA 96048  
(530) 623 0825

August 20 2004

Dear Mr Mitchell

We wish to express our concerns regarding the impact on Canyon Creek drainage system of the proposed mining operation by M.P. Inc.

Besides the impact to the scenic beauty of the canyon we are concerned about the following: - A

1. The amount of water taken each day will severely reduce the flow of Big East Fork. B
2. In their plan of operation they state that they intend to move up to 400 tons of dirt a day, - equals 40 10ton truck loads over the little bridge, - coming and going, that's 80 trips - 10 per hour. Can the bridge and the chipseal on the road withstand this? C
3. M.P. Inc. says they wish to buy the merchantable timber. If so, why are they not held to the same standards as normal logging operations, and will this timber be put to open-bid? D

LETTER 28-1

4. Are they a legally registered corporation in the state of California? E

There are many more issues that we could bring up, E but the Forest Service is, as we understand dedicated to preserve and protect our National Forests for us and future generations use. If this mining is allowed we will be denied access to our public land for up to 25 years E and the F scars will remain for generations. E We support the family dredging operations in season and feel the economy of Trinity County is strongly tied to tourism. Canyon Creek is, at present a very popular venue and brings people to our county. G

We very much appreciate your consideration of all aspects on this matter.

Wendy Drake WENDY DRAKE

Ric Velasquez RICH VELASQUEZ

P O Box 446  
Douglas City  
Ca. 96024,

25 August, 2004

Attn: Mike Mitchell  
Supervisory Natural Resource Planner  
USDA Forest Service, Shasta-Trinity National Forest  
P.O. Box 1190  
210 Main Street  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

Three years ago my family and I moved to Junction City as our retirement location. I have traveled and worked worldwide with the United States Marine Corps, Department of Defense Contractors and Columbia Helicopters, Inc. I have been in many beautiful locations and met wonderful people, but no place or people can match that of Trinity County. Our decision to live in Junction City was based on it's proximity to Canyon Creek and the Trinity Alps Wilderness Area.

As a 100% Disabled Vietnam Veteran, I have limited mobility due to numerous helicopter crashes resulting in spinal injuries. I can no longer hike or horseback ride into the magnificent public lands and forests, I can only view and enjoy from afar. I can only walk a short distance from my truck. [Just up Canyon Creek from Grasshopper Flats on the east side of the road lays a splendid area which I can visit now, but soon this will not be the case] [This is part of the Trinity 1-8 mines were existing old growth timber will soon be removed to facilitate a test pit and after verifying the mineral content a five acre parcel will be mined (open pit), destroying a late-successional forest that provides a home for numerous unique flora and fauna (i.e. Tiger-tailed Salamanders)] [This will limit access to public land for twenty-five years during the operation of the Trinity 1-8 mines.] [Continuing up Canyon Creek you come to a one lane bridge, this location provides a place to view the returning steelhead making their way up the rapids on Canyon Creek (looks like some success for fishery restoration)] [If you continue north on Canyon Creek you will come to a road to the Big East Fork trailhead. My wife and often picnic and enjoy the area about a quarter mile up the road on the right, soon this will no longer be accessible due to the operations of the Trinity 1-8 (open pit) mine. Access will be limited due to liability issues with the public being on public lands during equipment operation (for twenty-five years).] [E]

[Has anyone looked at and really thought about the proposed plan of operations for the Trinity 1-8?] [Has anyone investigated the potential damage to the watershed and fisheries, if the worst case 100 year event occurs with increased rain?] [Has anyone thought of the acid bearing rocks from former mining actives and the effects of water and oxygen to leach acids (i.e. sulfuric) into Canyon Creek and the Trinity River through percolation of the settling ponds? Has anyone thought of heavy metal contamination into Canyon Creek, when the ground (e.g. mercury, lead, chromium, arsenic, etc.) is disturbed for twenty-five years?] [I, J]

For the last twenty-five years I have worked in defense contracting as a systems analyst/engineer, business development manager, consulting engineer and program manager. These positions have required me to meet the requirements of the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR). During the performance of my duties in the aforementioned arenas I employed numerous subcontractors. All sole proprietorship, limited liability companies, and corporations were required to perform within the boundaries of the FAR and all local and state laws. Failure to comply with the appropriate laws results in termination of the contract. The armed forces and agencies that I have worked are required to meet the same standards and ethics as the contractor.

After the Scoping Meeting, I started some research on Master Petroleum Inc. (incorporated in Texas) to verify some of their statements, the results of the research is most interesting. Here is a summary of that research: K

- I researched the California Secretary of State web site (Business section).
  - ◆ Downloaded and reviewed requirements for foreign corporations to conduct business intrastate in California.
  - ◆ Downloaded search on registered foreign corporations operating within the state. Neither Master Petroleum Inc. nor MP Inc. is listed on the states register. L
- Additionally, I observed that the vehicles being operated by MP, Inc. have Texas plates and per own admission during the Scoping Meeting have been working in this state for six years mining on private property. Also, they stated that they had contributed large amounts of monies to the local economy. How can that be if they don't have a business license for Trinity County? By not obeying Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) regulations MP Inc. has avoided paying their fair share of road taxes and usage. This is going to be acerbated by the projected usage of one quarter mile of county road and one lane bridge. According to the MP Inc. Trinity 1-8 Mine Plan of Operation 25 ten (10) ton truck loads of material will be transported over this section of road per day. This is no minor impact on the road surface which is paid for by county residents, not foreign corporations. Who will pay for the new road signs to declare truck crossing and reduce speed limit on the two blind curves? Trinity County residents, not MP, Inc. M N
- After seeing that MP Inc. was doing business illegally within the state in numerous areas. I contacted Employment Development Department (EDD) Fraud Tip Hot Line (800-229-6297). I provided all the information that I had from my observations and MP Inc. statements and comments made at the Scoping Meeting. EDD confirmed that they had no record of Payroll Taxes, State Disability Insurance or Unemployment Insurance for Master Petroleum Inc. or MP Inc. EDD is the lead agency in a Joint Enforcement Strike Force to combat Underground Economy Operations. Other members of the Strike Force are:
  - ◆ Department of Consumer Affairs
  - ◆ Department of Industrial Relations
  - ◆ Department of Insurance
  - ◆ Governor's Office of Criminal Justice Planning

- ◆ Franchise Tax Board
- ◆ Board of Equalization
- ◆ Department of Justice P

Q Additional research indicates that the proposed two (2) settling ponds and leaching of mining wastes do not meet the State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB) requirements per 27CCR 22470 SWRCB – Applicability. (C15:2570). It is my intent to contact the SWRCB and provide them with a copy of the proposed plan for compliance and action. Q

I know that the USDA Forest Service is only acting in good faith and had no knowledge of any illegal operation occurring on MP Inc. private property for the last six years. As a former business owner in this state, I feel it my duty to report fraud and to identify individuals and corporations that practice it.

R As a mobility challenged individual, I have come to love the area that Trinity 1-8 encompasses due to its unique flat areas and beautiful vistas. There are no other spots so close to the Trinity Alps Wilderness Area and Canyon Creek that provide the same experience. S

T The American Disabilities Act (ADA) was intended to ensure access to public buildings and land for all disabled Americans. This means more than a handicap parking place and restroom. The disabled in this country are being denied their fair share of access to National Parks, Wilderness Areas, and National Forests. T

Exercise your right of Eminent Domain. Designate Trinity 1-8 as a Disabled Only Campsite (ADA compliant). Taking this step could possibly reduce the USDA Forest Services risk of liabilities associated with non-compliance with the 1872 Mining Law. Additionally, such a bold innovative approach to restricting open pit mining, preserving the existing natural resources and demonstrating compliance with ADA, would be a feather in Shasta-Trinity Nation Forest Management's hat. This could be used as a model for other public lands and in the process would show that USDA Forest Service Management, Shasta-Trinity National Forest understands that the deforestation of public lands and excavation of limited minerals resource is not the best usage for Trinity 1-8 Mine lands. I would like to provide free of charge a preliminary site layout, that would include minimal impact to the late-successional/open forest and provide minimal handicap requirements.

Please feel free to contact me at any time at (530)623-4453.

Sincerely,



Steve Brindle  
P.O. Box 36  
Junction City, CA 96048

August 25, 2004

Michael Mitchell  
Shasta-Trinity National Forest  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

I am writing to urge your office to deny the permits for the Open Pit Mine plans at Canyon Creek. I am opposed to the proposed mine for several reasons. A

1). The Bluebird Mine on Canyon Creek, closed in the 1980's, looks like it may only be restored after hundreds of years of no disturbance by humans. The attempts by the schoolchildren, in the last 20 years, have made no significant improvement. B

2). Canyon Creek is the first tributary to the Trinity River that flows directly out of the Trinity River. Its cold temperature is critical to salmon spawning and general health of the Trinity. An open pit mine that diverts, uses then sends the warmer water back into the stream would damage the integrity of the creek. Not to mention the erosion caused by the mine and its concomitant tons of dirt that will fill the creek. C D E F G

3). If the mining company finds gold, they can make a patent on their claim, then sell it as private property to any number of potential developers. This is usurping of ecologically important public lands by the private sector for profit... not such a good bargain for me or other taxpayers. H I

4). Lastly, a mine with its dump trucks, fuel tanks and heavy machinery does not meet the guidelines for compatible use of public lands. J

I realize you are well aware of all these points I've raised, I hope you in your official capacity will act on behalf of them. Many thanks!

Sincerely,



Meighan O'Brien  
2096-C Peninsula Drive  
Arcata, CA 95521  
707-444-3772

Mr. Mike Mitchell  
Shasta-Trinity National Forest, Weaverville Ranger District  
P.O. Box 1190  
210 Main Street  
Weaverville, CA 96093  
Fax (530) 623-6010

August 25, 2004

**Re:** public comment on proposed plans for gold mining on Canyon Creek.

Dear Mr. Mtichell,

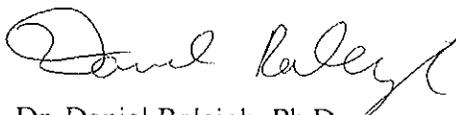
I am writing to comment on the proposal by Master Petroleum to mine for gold along Canyon Creek. [A] Please consider this letter as part of the public comment process. [B] I am strongly opposed to the project. [C] It sets a dangerous precedent. [D] Canyon Creek has extremely high water quality which the project can only degrade. [E] The large amount of water required for this project holds the real prospect of taxing aquatic habitat. [F] Furthermore mining close to the stream also raises the possibility of leeching of toxic materials into Canyon Creek. [G] Any environmental impact statement needs to address how the proposed project can be consistent with river restoration and federal and state Wild & Science Rivers program. [H]

[I] As you know, Canyon Creek is a major and extremely popular access point into the Trinity Alps Wilderness Area. The Canyon Creek trail is near the proposed mining site. This trail is probably the most heavily used in the Alps and allowing mining at such close proximity is not appropriate. [J] Increased vehicle traffic and the associated safety risks should also be considered in any environmental impact statement as should any effects on Air Quality. [K]

On a personnel note, although I now reside in New York State, I was born and raised in Northern California and know [L] Canyon Creek well. I return frequently and my last visit up the Canyon Creek trail was 3 years ago. Canyon Creek is one of the treasures of the Trinity Alps and it would be a shame to see it degraded. [M] I realize that the Forest Service's options are limited under the 1872 mining law but I urge you to do all you can to prevent this project. [N] If it must go forward it should do so in the least damaging way possible on limited scale and full restoration of the area must be required. [O]

[P] I would like to receive a copy of the draft environmental impact statement when it is released. Could you please add my name to your mailing list. [Q]

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. Sincerely yours



Dr. Daniel Raleigh, Ph.D.  
17 Arbutus Lane  
Stony Brook, NY 11790

August 26, 2004

To: Michael Mitchell  
Shasta-Trinity National Forest  
P. O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

From: Wendy Kull  
971 Eighth Avenue  
Trinidad, CA 95570

Re: Letter AGAINST Open-Pit Mining at Canyon Creek

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

I am OPPOSED to open-pit mining at Canyon Creek; mining in such a manner is completely destructive and is inappropriate for the area. I am OPPOSED to using the enormous amount of water this project requires. Please notify me when Master Petroleum re-applies in the future. Thank You.

Sincerely,



Wendy Kull

August 25, 2004

Michael Mitchell  
Shasta-Trinity National Forest  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

It is not appropriate for the Forest Service to allow open pit mines in Canyon Creek in the Trinity National Forest. A

The environment is too ecologically important in its natural state; and, it takes too long for it to recover from mining operations. The area is too fragile and too steep to accomodate such massive mining as proposed by Master Petroleum. B C

This destructive proposal would allow Master Petroleum, a Texas based mining company, to conduct massive open pit mining at the popular gateway to the Trinity Alps Wilderness. To extract gold deposits, 1 1/2 million cubic yards of soil on 22 acres of public land would be bulldozed and up to 300,000 gallons of water a day would be taken from the East Fork of Canyon Creek. Acres of mature second growth and old forest forest would be logged. This sensitive area is a recovery fishery, eligible for wild and scenic river designation and needs to be protected. D E F G H I

The massive amounts of water, hundreds of thousands of gallons a day, proposed to be taken out of East Fork Canyon Creek by Master Petroleum to process the ore is far too much that the stream system can accommodate. In a region where water is lacking and the rivers are dying, I implore you to consider the watershed wide effects that this project might have. J K

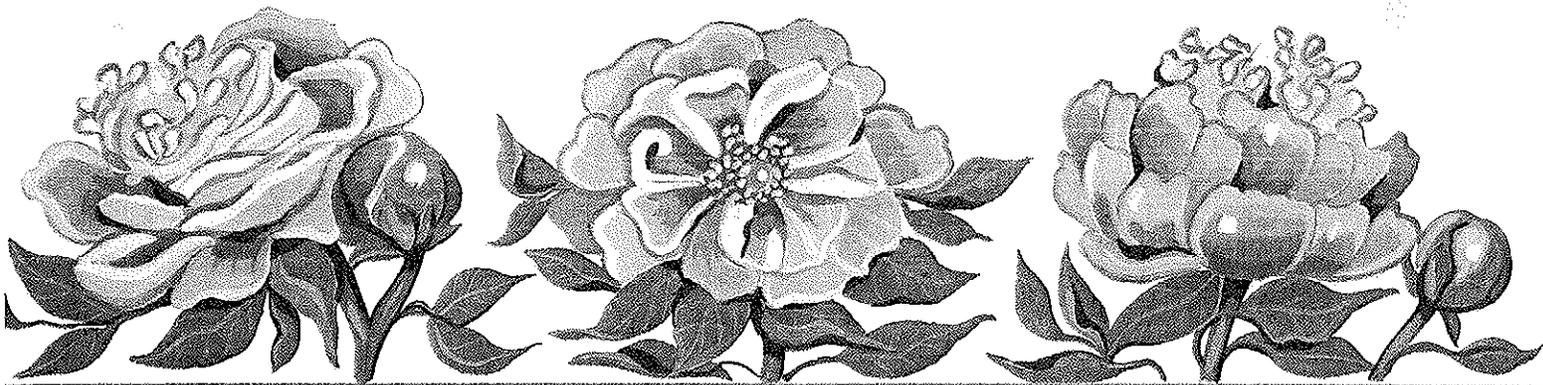
The beauty and wonderful characterisitcs of this area are too valuable as a place for people to learn about nature, and to restore and rejuvenate themselves by spending time here. L

I want to be notified of any future notices regarding the Master Petroleum mining proposal for Canyon Creek. M

Sincerely,



Steve Christianson  
230 Selby Ranch Road #1  
Sacramento, CA 95864



June 27, 2004

Dear Mike,

I am VEHEMENTLY apposed to the proposal of the Master Petroleum Co. to do open pit mining for gold adjacent to Canyon Creek. A

I have seen the environmental destruction caused by open pit mining in other places. It would be a travesty to destroy the beauty of The Canyon Creek Area B to threaten water quality and wildlife habitat. CD

there's already enough gold around.

Master Petroleum should just stay in Texas.

Sincerely

Pat von Alten

PO Box 279

Junction City CA 96048

Mike Mitchell  
Shasta-Trinity National Forest  
PO Box # 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

As a new resident of Humboldt County, I am thrilled to see so much wild nature everywhere I look. The farm where I live and work is right on the banks of the Klamath, and the Salmon River is only a few minutes away. These rivers are the lifeblood of our region; thus you must know that I strongly oppose open pit mining adjacent to Canyon Creek. A

The plan put forth by Master Petroleum, Inc. would lead to the deforestation of the creek side forests. B Removing all trees here would generate a potential increase in erosion, C impacting salmon populations in the creek through increased sediment. DE Also, since the plan of Master Petroleum calls for the use of 30000 gallons of water/day from the East Fork of Canyon Creek, this would seriously deplete the flow and cripple the water quality for the entire Canyon Creek watershed. F

Finally, because of increased erosion, mercury in the soil left over from past mining GHI will re-assert itself in the food-web of the watershed, J threatening not only anyone who eats fish or drinks water from Canyon Creek KL but also everyone who swims, recreates or works near the creek; Petroleum workers. LETTER 35-1

National Forest Employees, and private citizens alike. This plan will have a negative impact on the hohokah and hoh-hohokah populations of the Canyon Creek watershed, and should not be approved. MNO

The rugged beauty of the rivers of Northwest California is the heritage for all those who call this area home. They can be protected relatively easily, but reclaimed only through immense hardship and long stretches of time. Please grant wild and scenic status to Canyon Creek, so that all may enjoy its gifts and not suffer from its mis-use, for years and decades to come. P

Sincerely,

Andrew Rhodes

Andrew Howard Rhodes

**HAPPY WOMAN JEWELRY**

11111 East Road  
Redwood Valley, CA 95470

Laura Buckner • (707) 485-0447

7.8.04

Dear Mr Mitchell,

Regarding Master Petroleum Proposal for Open  
Pit Mining on Canyon Creek:

[ We propose No Open Pit Mining on  
Wild + Scenic Canyon Creek [ My Family + I ] [ A ]  
just returned from a backpacking trip [ B ]  
into Canyon Creek hakes in June 2004.  
We need to protect the land, forest  
+ watersheds surrounding the Trinity  
 Alps Wilderness. We believe no mining  
should be allowed in this area at all ever.  
It is a treasure for our future  
generations and can never be replaced.

⊕ Laura Buckner

Dear Michael Mitchell,

August 26, 2004

The Gold Rush is over! Thanks to what *was* the gold rush California suffered dramatic environmental damages many of which it will not recover for over a century to come. I grew up in Nevada County at the center of this environmental and human catastrophe. [The legacy in this once rich forest is miles and miles of red dunes where nothing grows except manzanita and a few small digger pines.] [This forest and habitat] [A] destruction says nothing for the genocide on previous residents and the cancer currently suffered by present residents near the Malakoff Diggings of the North San Juan ridge from the mercury deposits. [These deposits also cause mutations in local fish populations.] [B] If you want proof go fishing at the Malacoff diggings and taste a 2 headed fish. [Please.] [C D] Please! For the sake of the river, the fish, the other animals, and the people, represent the interests of those who live and need canyon creek as it is and not the greed of a few wealthy out-of-state anachronisms. [E]

Sincerely,

Ryan McCutchan

15617 Old Downieville Hwy.

Nevada City CA 95959

Deborah Robinson  
P.O. Box 279  
Junction City, CA 96048  
(530)623-2714

August 23, 2004

Mike Mitchell  
U.S. Forest Service  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

I strongly oppose Master Petroleum Inc.'s proposal for open pit mining of Canyon Creek in Trinity county, California. I am against a company that wants to come in here and make a buck at the expense of so many others. People, animals and insects, and everything in between would be negatively affected by this endeavor and in many cases devastated. C

I am aware that in the process of mining for gold, mercury and arsenic are released. This release would thus contaminate the water and pollute the air. Water pollution in Canyon Creek would flow into other creeks and rivers and would contaminate these viable water sources as well, such as the Trinity River, which is located about 15 miles downstream. EF

This proposed endeavor would wreak havoc on the environment and ecosystem. It would kill many wilderness habitats both in the water and on land. The forest itself would be logged, which is home to bears, deer, raccoons, foxes, skunks, and frogs, not to mention numerous insects and birds as well as other life forms. Contamination and poisoned water would affect salmon and steelhead fisheries, as well as all life forms (stated above) that drink the water. Humans who swim in the recreational areas and drink the water would also be adversely affected. Those that fish would eat and sell toxic fish from poisoned waters. Thus, the effects of this proposed project would be far-reaching and long-term. KL

I visited two of the four proposed sites as well as the formerly mined Blue Bird site, which is located in the same area about 5 miles down the mountain. There have been numerous attempts to restore this site (Blue Bird), over the years but to no avail. It is now a hot and dry meadow that only grows milk thistle. Trees that once were native are not able to survive there. The proposed sites are located under a canopy of trees, which provides shelter for the many wildlife stated earlier, as well as a cool reprieve from the hot sun. This area is at risk for becoming just as the Blue Bird site has -- a hot arid meadow where almost nothing can grow, and many can not live. The proximity of the proposed site to Canyon Creek is about 75 feet, <sup>from the water,</sup> which

violates acts that specifically state building in such areas be a minimum of 300 feet away. M

Additionally, in the proposal it is stated that a few thousand dollars will be included in a bond to restore the land. The amount proposed is highly insufficient and would realistically require millions of dollars to carryout such an effort. But even this proposal to restore the land is highly unrealistic given the deadly and irreversible effects of mercury and arsenic. N O

Further, water itself would be a vehicle with which to spread the contamination into other areas. The Trinity River flows through Humboldt County, so all areas and water sources there would be at severe risk for poisoning. P

Furthermore, as much as 300,000 gallons of water per day is proposed to be pumped from the East Fork of Canyon Creek. It is questionable as to whether the creek could afford that much of a loss, particularly towards the end of summer when it likely does not have that amount to give. Q

In literature that was printed regarding this proposal it was stated that the public roads would not be used. Not only is this untrue, but in fact, trucks filled with sediment, logs and other debris will be traveling back and forth on the roads between Areas 2 and 4, every 4 1/2 to 9 minutes, including traveling on a small one-lane bridge. R

This proposal is as misleading as it is dangerous and devastating. Please Mr. Mitchell, do whatever you can to protect the environment and the Canyon Creek watershed and ecosystem from rape. Please ensure that the proposal by Master Petroleum Inc.'s for open pit mining is rejected and defeated. Please also apply stringent protection so that the following acts/plans are upheld and maintained for continued protection of the environment: the National Environmental Policy Act, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act and the Trinity River Restoration Plan. S T

I support protection of Canyon Creek as a Wild and Scenic River due to outstanding values for recreation, visual and water quality, scenery, steelhead and salmon habitat, as well as habitats for all those who make their home on land. UVWXY

Thank you for your consideration on this most important matter.

Sincerely yours,

  
Deborah Robinson

Aug. 24, 04

Dear Michael Mitchell,

As someone who has spent precious  
time enjoying the beauty of Canyon Creek, I need to ask you to please do your best to keep the new mining proposal out of this place. Lethal poisons would be leached back into the water. This is a healthy flowing waterway, preservation is our only hope for clean water. As a gateway area to the Trinity Alps, many people are rejoicing at the beauty & purity of this rushing waterway as they travel to hiking areas & places of serenity. The mining, they say it would be very small, leaches at a time, slowly poisoning the waterway. Clean water is our chance for survival, a future for our planet. The NEC will be watchdogging this proposal, it will be under constant surveillance. Please say no mining. There is no substitute for water.

Thank you for your  
consideration

Michelle Faraon  
5478 Bell Springs Rd.  
Garberville  
CA. 95542

8.22.04

Dear Mr. Mitchell



Ms. Lydia Garvey  
429 S. 24th St.  
Clinton, OK 73601

[I strongly urge you to keep gold mining out of our Public lands] Do your job - Protect Shasta-Trinity! You work for the American people - not industry! Keep it wild & pristine!

A

Your attention to this most urgent matter would be much appreciated by all future generations of all species.

Thank you,  
*[Handwritten signature]*

Wilderness is highly inappropriate for extremely destructive & polluting mining.  
(persistent)

10.17.04



Lydia Garvey  
429 S 24th St.  
Clinton, OK 73601

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

I strongly urge you to -  
Do your job - Protect OUR  
Public lands - NIX Master A  
Petroleum's plans to destroy  
this priceless area! You  
work for the American  
people - not corporations -  
Keep Canyon Creek wild &  
pristine! Taxpayers are  
sick of being ripped off  
by subsidies & destruction  
pollution which we end up  
having to clean up. Stop this!

Your attention to this  
most urgent matter would  
be much appreciated by all  
future generations of all  
species.

Thank you,

United States Forest Service  
Weaverville Ranger Station  
Michael Mitchell, Natural Resource Planner  
P.O. Box 119  
Weaverville, CA 96093  
(530)623-2121, (530)623-6010 (FAX)

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

[We find it hard to believe that in this day and age the United States Forest Service (USFS) would be considering a large open pit mine at the gateway to the Trinity Alps Wilderness Area. [The USFS could and should use current local, state, and federal environmental regulations to stop this proposal in its tracks and not hide behind the antiquated Mining Act of 1872. [If the USFS has the policy that this type of development can be allowed in our national forest, then perhaps it is time for us to ask the USFS to reexamine their priorities.]

The project area is more valuable to the taxpayers of the United States and California left in its natural state. [The area is much too fragile and too steep to accommodate such massive mining as proposed by Master Petroleum.] Mr. Mitchell, you are most certainly aware of the damage that has been done to Northcoast rivers by past mining operations. In recent years California taxpayers have paid dearly for the clean up of abandoned mining sites throughout the state. What will we pay in the end for this fiasco?

[What about the top soil to be removed and trees to be cut? [What about the massive amounts of water, hundreds of thousands of gallons a day, proposed to be taken out of East Fork Canyon Creek by Master Petroleum to process this ore? What about the extended dry period that has been predicted for the northwest? [The damage done to air quality, water quality, aesthetics, geology, and to plants and animals cannot be sufficiently mitigated.]

[This project is not appropriate for the Trinity/Shasta National Forest and the gateway to the Trinity Alps Wilderness Area.] We strongly urge the USFS use every tool available to discourage Master Petroleum from pursuing this project.

Thank you for your time, and please keep us notified of any future notices regarding the Master Petroleum mining proposal for Canyon Creek.

Sincerely,  
*John Mello*  
*Marsha Mello*  
John and Marsha Mello  
2371 Ridgewood Drive  
Eureka, CA 95503  
(707) 441-9287

PO Box 279  
Junction City, CA  
96048

August 23, 2004

Mike Mitchell  
PO Box 1190  
Weaverville CA 96093

re Master Petroleum plan for Open Pit Mining on Canyon Creek

Dear Mike,

I've read the news about the plan to mine for gold on public lands along Canyon Creek. [Why I wonder are public lands available for this kind of destruction] I've seen the [A] effects of mining here in Junction City, and know how difficult it is to restore these lands. The Chronicle article said that the same individuals have mined on private lands in Canyon Creek and restored them. Can you tell me what they have planted there, how old the trees are, what plants are thriving? Here we have lots of star thistle with little luck after years of trying to plant pines and other trees.

[I'm also concerned about the amount of water taken from the creek for this operation. This year the creek seems low. I enjoy swimming there over the summer and imagine that 200,000 gallons a day would lessen the flow considerably. What is the usual amount of flow on a summer day?] [B C]

[Please let me know what decision is made regarding this plan, and I'd appreciate any answer you could give in response to my questions] [Oh, another concern is that the [D] mercury from previous mining operations would be dredged up. Is this true? Would they use mercury now for the planned mining operation?] [E]

Sincerely,

  
Susanne Fairclough

August 22, 2004

Richard Quist  
P.O. Box 922797  
Sylmar, CA 91392

Mike Mitchell  
Weaverville Ranger District  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

As a yearly visitor to the Canyon Creek area of Trinity County for more than 30 years, I am writing to urge denial or mitigation of the Trinity I-8 Placer Mining Claim CAMC #60515 project. A

I base this position on anticipated damage to the esthetics and natural resources of Canyon Creek, particularly to fish habitat. I also believe that damage to Canyon Creek will ultimately have a negative impact on tourism and the economy of Trinity County. B C D

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Richard Quist

August 12, 2004

Mr. Michael Mitchell

Shasta Trinity National Forest

P.O. Box 1190, Weaverville, 96093.

RE: Comments On Canyon Creek

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

We are writing to you today because of our deep concern about the plans for an open pit mine on Canyon Creek. We strongly believe that the area is too valuable as a home for salmon and other endangered animals and plants and should not be utilized as a mine by Master Petroleum. Mining operations, even when done as carefully as possible, are too damaging and destructive to be allowed in this area. The volume of water proposed for use in the mine is not consistent with the with the Federal and State Wild and Scenic Rivers program, and the Aquatic conservation strategy. The vast amounts of topsoil to be removed and trees to be cut are far more than this area can tolerate. We want the plans dropped to create this mine and destroy an important local place of immense value just the way it is!! Please notify us of any future developments regarding the Master Petroleum mining proposal for Canyon Creek and take all possible actions to protect and preserve this area for future generations.

A  
B  
C  
D E  
F  
G

Sincerely,

The Rosenstein Family

PO Box 29

Hyampom, CA 96046

  
David      Tori      Gabriel      Theo      Isabel

Mike Mitchell  
U.S.F.S

John Inay  
Box 279  
J.C. Ca.  
96048

Mike,

I wrote out my opinion on this mining project up Canyon Creek. I wrote it for you, and anyone who's interested.

I Reread it today. It sounds harsh, acuzational even. I don't mean to insult anyone - the U.S.F.S. it's people.

I've made a significant portion of my liveing in the past 30 odd years on U.S.F.S lands, Contract work there and B.L.M., Private Timber, state lands municipal and private holdings. Tree planting, pre-commercial thinning, cone harvest, tree hazzard work, I carried a Timber Operators Liscens For some years. I've Run a portable saw mill professionally. I've done timber Falling on U.S.F.S Timber sales and other places.

I know what it means to have the need to build a payday. I know what it means to maintain a responsible, consistent relationship with administrative agencies.

[Please, Don't Risk sacrificing values which belong to all of us so that a couple of people can make a payday.]<sup>A</sup> IF they are that ambitious, determined and creative, they will find something else to do.

[The ~~amount~~ amount of gold that might come out of Canyon Creek certainly will not increase the National Wealth ~~in~~ any noticeable way.]<sup>B</sup> There is no industry that's just going to make its product because Canyon Creek didn't get mined. There's no Jewellery maker who won't get his job done because Canyon Creek didn't get mined.

[There's no gain to this project except a few paydays. Those people can and will find something else to do.]<sup>C</sup>

My opinion may sound harsh,  
I can't find a more honest  
thing to say.

Thank you for reading it.

John Ivey  
John Ivey  
Box 279  
Junction City, Ca.  
96048

Opinion Follows next page

Don't gamble with canyon creek. The stakes are too high. To play off the cash profit which could be made by a few individuals ( even if they are local residents with genuine concern for the well being of this community ) and the two or three jobs they might create against the real value Canyon Creek has to Trinity County and Weaverville is reckless and irresponsible in the extreme. D

Potential detrimental effects to the recovering fishery alone are reason enough to halt this project. To claim with certainty that no damage to the fishery is possible is to demonstrate a state of mind and way of thinking which ignores reality while proceeding forward in a rash and foolhardy way. Maybe damage to the fishery would be small, maybe it would be large. People with different points of view will assess the odds of potential damage actually occurring differently.

So what? The stakes are too high to play those odds whatever they are. The value of those fish bearing waters is far greater than the large sum of money already spent to restore them valuable to the people of this community, to those who visit this community, to the whole Klamath/ Trinity river system. Don't risk that value for the economic gain of a few individuals. E

The relatively undisturbed, non-industrial and natural atmosphere of that canyon definitely adds to the economic yield generated by tourism in this community. There are no odds here Those values will certainly be damaged by ore trucks grinding along over canyon creek road. G F

Don't let it happen. Don't let a few people come in and take those values from all of us just to put a few bucks in their own pockets.

John Ivoy  
P.O. Box 279  
Junction City  
Ca.  
96048

Dennis R. Corp  
Box 132  
Junction City, CA, 96048

623-3075

8/24/2004

To: Joyce Anderson, Ranger  
United States Forest Service  
Trinity River Management Unit  
Weaverville, CA

RE: Master Petroleum proposal, Trinity 1—8 Placer Mining Claims

Dear Ms Anderson:

Please incorporate by reference all my previous written communications concerning these claims.

#### WATERSHED ANALYSIS

The existing watershed analysis, while it does provide a general outline, seems inadequate as a document the role of which is to provide much of the baseline knowledge upon which management decisions within the Canyon Creek watershed might be based. It is too general in scope, and is dealing with multiple watersheds which are very different as to the amount, and effects, of human activity. While its role is to provide information over the whole watershed, and not at the detail of the individual project level, it is also true that it fails to provide the level of knowledge upon which further investigation can build, and fails to adequately consider the effects on this tier one key watershed and its riparian reserves, of further resource extraction activities. It does tell us that Canyon Creek is part of a three-stream group which holds great and increasing importance as refuge for summer steelhead in the Klamath River system. Riparian reserves are supposed to provide connectivity for both aquatic and terrestrial species. This analysis fails to tell us, in a drainage where "mining has irreversibly altered riparian land..." how riparian reserves would perform their function, and for what species, under conditions of further fragmentation. And it is very weak in displaying current knowledge, research needs, and how monitoring requirements would be met. It needs to be re-done prior to initiation of any projects in the watershed.

#### STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES and the AQUATIC CONSERVATION STRATEGY

The Forest Service is well aware of the aquatic conservation strategy and accompanying standards and guidelines in the LRMP, and that there is the absolute requirement that they

be implemented in any project, including this one. [D] Habitat fragmentation and its effects are widespread and well known in the entire Klamath-Siskiyou region. One estimate is that only 25 percent of the region remains relatively intact. Fragmentation is most serious at lower elevations, and Canyon Creek is representative. It is therefore worth mentioning that the Forest Service is required to manage in a way that preserves and/or enhances, and does not degrade, the Canyon Creek watershed and its natural terrestrial and aquatic populations. [E] This from attachment A of the Record of Decision: "Management actions that do not maintain the existing condition or lead to improved conditions in the long term would not 'meet' the intent of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy and thus, should not be implemented." And this from standards and guidelines in the SEIS accompanying the ROD: "Do not use mitigation or planned restoration as a substitute for preventing habitat degradation."

#### PROJECT LEVEL CONSIDERATIONS

Therefore, if it is the position of the Forest Service that it is constrained from denying a proposed mining project, it must also be the position of the Forest Service that the preferred alternative must be one that requires the project to conform to requirements as they exist, in order to operate, and continue to operate. [D]

[F] Prior to proceeding, a refocused and improved watershed analysis must be in place. [G H] Baseline data as to aquatic and terrestrial populations needs to be collected. Baseline data as to the discharge volume of both Canyon Creek and the Big East Fork needs to be ascertained, particularly so that average annual low-water flows are known. Other basic water quality data needs to be collected for both streams, and for Canyon Creek above and below the current mining activity on the proponent's private property. Project monitoring would need to include monitoring of both streams above, and Canyon Creek below, the proposed mining. [I]

[J] Because of the extent of historic and recent mining along Canyon Creek, and the possible implementation of this and future similar proposals, an analysis of overall present and predictable future cumulative effects must be made and displayed. [J]

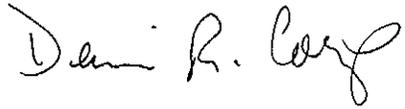
[K] The amount of bonding needs to be disclosed. [K]

[L] Any and all results of tests done preliminary to this project must be examined, revealed and displayed. The public has a right to know upon what economic basis this project is to be carried out. [L]

[M] The Forest Service and other agencies of government should perform all research, analysis, and planning. The proponents should pay for it. [M]

Thankyou for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis R. Corp". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'C'.

Dennis R. Corp



"Sue Leskiw"  
<soconnel@northcoast  
.com>

08/27/2004 03:49 PM

To: <mitchell@fs.fed.us>  
cc:  
Subject: Comments on Canyon Creek gold mining

Please accept this letter (attached and reproduced below), although it is 1 day late. An article in the San Francisco Chronicle stated that comments would be accepted through the end of August and only today did I discover that the actual deadline was August 26. Thank you.

Tom Leskiw (forwarded by Sue Leskiw)

August 26, 2004

Mike Mitchell

Shasta-Trinity NF

3644 Avtech Parkway  
Redding, CA 96002

What follows are my comments to the proposal by Master Petroleum for an open pit mine near Junction City, California. I am writing as concerned citizen, although as a Forest Service employee I have extensive experience in fisheries, water quality and a number of restoration projects that include mine rehabilitation.

[ This proposal is bad for the area and could set a dangerous precedent. I prepared and implemented a mine cleanup around 1990 in the Sharber Creek drainage, which is likewise a tributary to the main stem Trinity River. As you know, miners have a habit of importing vast amounts of equipment, much of which is useless, defunct junk by the time mine rehabilitation is to take place. In the case of the Sharber Creek mine, the bond collected from the miner(s) represented a mere fraction of the cost to haul the junk away, leaving no monies for actual rehabilitation of the site. A number of "improvements" -- scummy ponds, junk, and concrete slabs -- still remain at the site ] A

[Another issue is the likelihood of the establishment of noxious weeds. Truly, is there an area below about 4000' in Trinity County where star thistle doesn't colonize disturbed sites? Without vast amounts of money for site rehabilitation and a multi-decade commitment, it is unlikely that the site can be adequately rehabilitated.] C B

[Water withdrawals and potential adverse water quality impacts to T&E fish species are also of concern. With declining budgets, how is the public to be assured that the project will receive the necessary agency oversight over the (rather lengthy) term of the project?] D E F

[This project is a bad fit for Trinity County for a number of reasons: proximity to the highest-use trailhead in the Salmon-Trinity Alps wilderness, potential impacts to water quality and T&E fish, and a high likelihood of the importation of noxious weeds.] G D E B

I recently received a memo touting the partnership between the Forest Service and Trout Unlimited that seeks to undo the damage done by mining in Colorado. Only by denying this mine can the public be assured that a similar restoration effort won't be required along Canyon Creek many years from now.

Thank you for the ability to comment,

Tom Leskiw

5440 Cummings Road

Eureka, CA 95503



Gold Mining.doc

22 August, 2004

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

I am writing this letter urging you to protect Canyon Creek and not allow Master Petroleum to establish an open pit gold mine there. I live in Junction City, I've been here for about seven years (since 1997). I grew up in the Bay Area, and have been [backpacking with my family in the Trinity Alps] since the early [A] 1980's. We care so deeply about the [crystal clear pristine waters of Canyon Creek] [the fragile spawning [B] grounds for salmon in the Trinity River] and the [whole quality of [C] the wilderness area in the Canyon Creek Canyon] - [it offers so much [D] to so many, human & otherwise.] [E]

Thank you so much for the work you do protecting our public land as for future generations.

(over)

All my best  
Allen Koder

Allison Rader  
P.O. Box 279  
Junction City, Ca  
96048

623-2714

Aug 25, 2009

Mr Mike Mitchell, USFS

I would like to add my voice to those [opposed to the Canyon Creek mining operation] [A] that is being considered on U.S. Forest Service land.

I view your job to be a custodian of the few remaining land assets that the people of the United States of America still hold. As taxpayers, we have hired you to be our advocate in matters such as this.

There will always be some people who see only profit in our land resources. Hopefully you and the USFS will take a very firm and cautious position when dealing with the usage of

these natural resources.

Have you looked long and hard at the current mining operation being undertaken by this company? Are the rules and regulations being followed to the fullest extent?

What does this area look like now?

As you know, the 'Blue Bird' mine site has still not recovered and may never fully recover. Are you going to allow this area to be further destroyed?

[The Canyon Creek trailhead is very widely known and used by both locals and tourists. The entire Canyon Creek experience is spectacular at every time of the year.] Please protect it [BC] for the future generations to enjoy as I and my family have over the past 30 years.

Respectfully

Carl Beatty

Mike Mitchell  
PO Box 1190  
Weaverville CA 96093

re Master Petroleum plan for Open Pit Mining on Canyon Creek

I am writing you to **Strongly**  
protest the mining project **A**  
proposed in the Junction  
City area. Please do not let  
this rape of the land happen  
for human profit. Let your  
conscience be your guide.  
Thank you for supporting  
the Good.

Sincerely -

Kristen Tussey  
Kristen Tussey



August 23, 2004

Mike Mitchell  
Weaverville Ranger Station  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

RE: Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims

Dear Mike,

I am writing in regards to the Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims located up Canyon Creek.

I very strongly oppose this project and believe the potential for damage to the local environment as well as to Canyon Creek and the Trinity River is significant. I believe it is critical that an Environmental Impact Statement be required for this project. A

The EIS must address all of the possible alternatives to ensure that as little damage occurs as is possible, and that any and all activity that does take place is fully remediated. Some of the issues that must be addressed in the alternatives is site restoration, mercury and other leachates, riparian zone protection, scenic qualities, Wild and Scenic River aspects, the number of years of mining activity, the size of the operation, economic impacts to the fishing industry and recreation, potential toxins in Canyon Creek, the Trinity River and beyond, and the potential harm to fish, plants and humans. In addition the alternatives must consider the impact of utilization of the large amounts of water from the East Fork of Canyon Creek that are currently being proposed. B C D E F G H I J

Please continue to notify me of any future notices regarding the Master Petroleum mining proposal for Canyon Creek.

Respectfully,

Rob Barnes  
P.O. Box 281  
Junction City, CA 96048

[Pit Mining in Canyon Creek area is  
a detriment to the water shed] [A]  
[and all the animals and natural  
systems that exist in the Treaty  
River Area], [There is no need to] [B C]  
allow capitalist ventures  
to affect the fishing / tourist  
industries]. [Please consider the] [D]  
the good of all in your decisions.  
Sincerely, Julie Brazill.

Dear MIKE - <sup>from Wm Bazzell</sup>  
P.O. Box 1435  
Mendocino, CA 95460

PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW THE MINE TO  
HAPPEN ON CANYON CREEK. IVE BEEN  
RETURNING TO THE AREA for over 35 yrs  
AND THINK IT IS ONE OF THE MOST  
BEAUTIFUL AREAS IN ALL OF CALIF. A  
I AM ALSO VERY CONCERNED OF THE IMPACT  
TO THE MAIN FORK OF THE TRINITY AND TO  
THE SALMON & STEELHEAD HABITAT. BC

Michael,



Sunheart  
PO Box 782  
Middletown, CA 95461-0782

10/11/04

I am a member of EPIC from Lake County,  
I read their thorough publication on the Twelve Terrible  
Timber Sales in Northwest California's National Forests,  
... Very detailed on how the Forest Service could  
serve the People better and balance the bias ~~from~~<sup>from</sup>  
private logging and mining for sustainable forests.

Please regard this information. EPIC is doing  
alot of work for your agency - free... (Actually  
with donations from people like me.)

People are watching your actions from  
all around the California National Forests;  
to see that you do your job better for all,  
Avoid being made to do your job by  
the efforts of EPIC in court. Do it because  
you know how to balance the laws for  
sustainable ecology with special interest.

Sincerely,  
Sunheart

LETTER 54

4879 Hardwood Blvd.  
Redding, CA 96003  
August 24, 2004

Mr. Mike Mitchell  
Shasta-Trinity National Forest  
P O Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I have made numerous trips into the Trinity Alps from the Canyon Creek trailhead. [The trips up from Junction City is highly scenic], [I think it is ludicrous that anything] [A] would be approved which would harm the Canyon Creek watershed]. [The Master Petroleum, Inc.] [B] project should not be approved.

Very truly yours,

James F. Pudd

Dear Mr. Mitchell -

①

I am writing regarding the plan of operations on Trinity 1-8 Placer mining claim. I shudder to think of the potential dire consequences to the beautiful Canyon Creek watershed should this plan proceed. I drive

A

Canyon Creek road every day, and even to my untrained eye I can see that the proposed diversion of over 100,000 gallons per day would have a dramatic (negative) impact on the flow of this important stream. The flows are very low in the hot

→



(7)

summer months, a mere shadow of the flow in the winter & spring. Rains may not increase the creek flow until October. Surely a diversion as proposed would be a BIG environment impact that must be addressed in any E.I.S. This diversion would occur at a critical time of need for cold water for the Salmon in the Trinity River, + Canyon Creek is a major contributor. The taxpayers have put millions into the Salmon Restoration effort - which could be undetermined by the proposed diversion. Plus the proposed sites themselves have some serious drawbacks when pit mining is

B

C

D

E



proposed. Driving up to the  
sides, [before the turn off road to  
area] you can look across the  
creek + see a tall, eroded  
red dirt cliff - imagine my  
shock when I discover that  
strip mining is proposed immediately  
behind that very cliff - the stakes  
for the pit margin looked 30' from  
that sheer drop! - In a wet  
year how could you say that a  
45' deep strip mine of that length  
would not undermine that

tall, eroded cliff] + be telling [F  
the truth? [Should that cliff fail, it  
could dump dirt + lots of it, right to  
Canyon Creek], it's that steep. Also [G  
the proposed water <sup>storage pond</sup> / drag pits would  
have potential dangers. The products of



A  
The mining would have possibilities  
of failure in the wet year. And  
they are proposed to remain there  
for many years. In addition the  
mercury that is associated with gold  
would not be recovered but left in  
the storage ponds to become  
methylated when exposed to air over  
time, and could enter the wild life  
food chain and over time, percolate  
into the creek contaminating it.

H

I J K L M

In area 4, in addition to clearcutting  
late successional forest, the 45' pit  
mine is proposed in a sight again  
way too close to the creek. Run off  
would be inevitable, damaging the  
creek with silt, damaging spawning  
areas. I was also schocked to

N

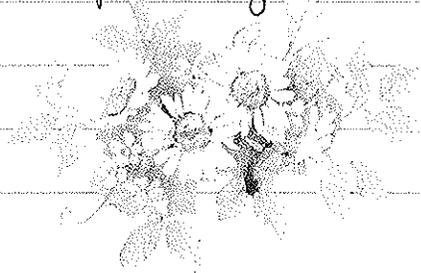
OP



3)

learn that [an additional test pit was planned prior to the public meeting & I don't recall any mention being made at the meeting of this. The mine proponent said he'd already gotten results sufficient to justify in his mind the mining. Comment was allowed on the 1st test pit - why no notice on 2nd test pit, only 1 person getting a packet saying it was all ready decided before any notice was given.] [I certainly hope the EIS will be given adequate attention with a full look at all the factors weighed in. <sup>Real</sup> Mitigation of the mining effects would appear to be next to impossible given the size + methods]

Q



(6)

of the Trinity 1-8 mining proposal.

R

There are potentially horrendous immediate impacts by diversion of such a large amount of water in the summer months (we were still really low in the streams into October 2 years ago & really,

really low right now). Also the potential threat of cliff failure & pond containment in Area 2 are something that must be looked at, so

B

say nothing of <sup>silty</sup> runoff from Area 4,

FO

the loss of the old trees & subsequent greater sun on the creek raising temperatures for the salmon. These areas will never grow back any forest to speak of. I urge you to do a true & full E.I.S. that addresses these concerns. Everyone

ST

R



⑦

I talk to about the mining proposal is horrified about the threat to Canyon Creek, even if they are not writing letters & signing petitions. Please help us save this important watershed from this drastic plan.

Terril Wilson

Box 651

Weaverville, Ca. 96093

PS. [A really large bond should be required for this proposal - \$200,000 at least - even that would not cover real mitigation of these sites - top soil & water should be added, w/ ongoing irrigation to assist recovery instead of the wasteland "mitigation" seen already Upt down Canyon Creek.]

U



October 5, 2004

Michael Mitchell  
Shasta-Trinity Nat'l Forest  
P.O.BOX 1190  
Weaverville CA 95093

As a member of EPIC, I urge you to take action  
to deny the destructive plan, EIS, to allow  
Master Petroleum to create a test pit in the  
Canyon Creek section of Trinity Alps.

[This wilderness area must be preserved!] A

Yours truly

  
Elizabeth Neikes

2951 Derby St #354  
Berkeley CA 94705

✓  
JAMES E. COLLINS  
105 Lakeside Drive  
Corte Madera, CA 94925  
415.945.3292

October 10, 2004

Mike Mitchell  
United States Forest Service  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

**Re: Stop the Canyon Creek Gold Mine**

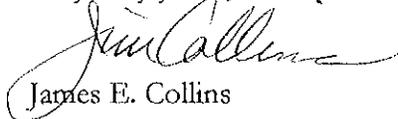
Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I cannot believe that the Forest Service has given the go ahead to Master Petroleum to begin clearing timber from their proposed mining site without filing the require Environmental Impact Statement. A

This is a crime being committed against the endangered species of fish that rely on the cold clear waters of the creek for their spawning habitat. B The Hoopa people who rely on these fish had been making great strides in regaining their precious resource. This gold mine is a stab in the back to their cultural and economic recovery. C D What service is the Forest Service providing, allowing this company to proceed without any regard to the environmental laws?

Please do what ever you can to stop this madness. Your agency should be a standard for environmental stewardship. Please save Canyon Creek from the price of stripping away a few pounds of gold.

Very truly yours,

  
James E. Collins

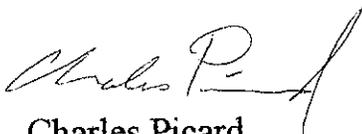
Mike Mitchell  
file code 2810

5/8/04

We are sending our support for the proposed mining activity listed in your letter dated 4/22/04 concerning the mining claims Trinity 1-8 PMC CAMC #605515. A

Thank you for the opportunity to have input.

Sincerely:



Charles Picard  
4775 Goodwater Ave  
Redding CA 96002



Cleo Picard  
4775 Goodwater Ave  
Redding CA 96002

Mr. Erich Franz Schimps  
3958 L K Wook Ct.  
Arcata, CA 95521

Mike Mitchell  
Supervisory Natural Resource Counsel  
Weaverville Ranger District  
Shasta-Trinity National Forest  
P.O.B. 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

This letter pertains to the proposed Master  
Petroleum open-pit gold mine on  
Canyon Creek.

My family and I know the area well  
as we hike in the Trinity Alps and  
have stayed with friends who own  
property downriver from the proposed mine  
site.

I am very concerned about the potential  
overall impact of this proposed project  
on the recreational aspects of the area. A

I have visited several sites in this  
vicinity where so-called mitigation  
measures were attempted at abandoned  
open-pit sites - restoration is simply  
not feasible within our lifetime!

Let's face it, industrial scale activity  
on public lands of this high quality is  
simply incompatible and will destroy  
the aesthetic qualities as well as affect  
salmonid habitat disastrously. B C

Do what's right and deny this project  
of questionable value. Sincerely, Erich Franz Schimps

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

My wife and myself strongly  
oppose the proposed mining  
operation on Canyon Creek. A

Neil & Esther Gilchrist  
1261 I St  
Arcata CA 95521

July 26, 2004

770 Harrison St., #11  
Santa Clara CA 95050

Michael Mitchell  
Shasta Trinity National Forest  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville CA 96093

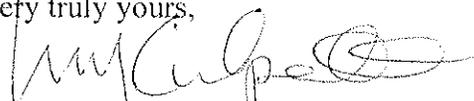
Re: Master Petroleum Gold Mines

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I am shocked and disgusted that your office would even consider the proposal of Master Petroleum to dig pit mines near the Canyon Creek. [This is an example of the public trust being exploited for the enrichment of a few, with catastrophic consequences.] To dig the mines and extract the public's wealth, [Master Petroleum will devastate the top soil and the trees, it will pollute Canyon Creek, and when the mines are exhausted, the land will be scarred for hundreds of years.] [A] [B C D]

I have hiked in the Trinity Alps and seen the ugly and obscene ruins of previous gold mines. Let's not have any more. [I want to receive notices of future events, hearings, and the like,] concerning the Master Petroleum mining scam. My address is 770 Harrison St., #11, Santa Clara CA 95050. Please resist this land grab. [E]

Very truly yours,



William M. Kirkpatrick

/k

July, 2004 ✓

Marlene Buono

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

I understand that Meata Petroleum Inc. is proposing to operate an open-pit gold mine along Canyon Creek. Though dredge mining isn't so great either, the open-pit method leaves too much lasting damage. [The Trinity area needs to maintain its wildness.]

Even though the company claims it will restore the area, just take a look at previous restorations of mining operations. They're a joke.

The Trinity River should not be compromised in any way. Please don't let this mining operation proceed.

Thank you -  
Marlene Buono

A

July 27, 2004

Josh Brown  
POB 1049  
Arcata, CA. 95518

Michael Mitchell,  
Shasta-Trinity National Forest  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, 96093.

RE: Proposed Master Petroleum Canyon Creek Goldmine

U.S. Forest Service,

I writing to urge you to deny the Master Petroleum open pit mining proposal in Canyon Creek in the Trinity National Forest.

After a field trip, which was well attended with over 70 community members, I was able to witness, first hand, the effects of historical and more recent mining activity. I was amazed at how the land in Canyon Creek and other areas has not recovered to it's natural state. In fact one area we visited- the Bluebird mine, has nothing but weeds and star thistle growing on it despite repeated efforts at restoration. [Real restoration seems incompatible with the scale and effects of open pit mining.] [A]

[Canyon Creek is too fragile and too steep to accommodate such massive mining as proposed by Master Petroleum. The vast amounts of top soil and gravel (1 1/2 million cubic yards!) to be removed is much more than this area can tolerate.] [The forest and old-growth trees to be cut are far more [B] important as riparian buffer and recovering fisheries than for gold.] [C D]

[The massive amounts of water, hundreds of thousands of gallons a day, proposed to be taken out of East Fork Canyon Creek by Master Petroleum to process the ore is far too much that the stream system can accommodate.] [What will happen after this water is used? Will it return to the creek warm, silty and laced with mercury. What about the value that water has in sustaining fisheries late in the summer and early fall when the creek level is low?] [E F G]

[The natural beauty and value of this area as a public trust resource far outweigh whatever short term economic benefits this proposal may have for a few wealthy individuals.] [The Forest Service needs to realize that Canyon Creek is the most known and loved area of the Trinity Alps.] [The beauty and wonderful characteristics of this area are too valuable as a place for people to learn about nature, and to restore and rejuvenate themselves by spending time here.] The public will not stand for this proposal to move forward. [H] [I] [J]

I want to be notified of any future notices regarding the Master Petroleum mining proposal for Canyon Creek.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Brown", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Josh Brown

Juliana Krause

PO Box 1213, Weaverville, CA 96093  
(530) 623-3911; email: maitri121@yahoo.com

July 22, 2004

Mike Mitchell  
U.S. Forest Service  
PO Box 1190  
Weaverville CA 96093

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I am writing in opposition to the open pit mine in Canyon Creek that is proposed by Master Petroleum. I had the opportunity to visit several of the proposed sites and am deeply concerned by what I saw. I feel strongly that it is not appropriate for the Forest Service to allow open pit mines anywhere in the Trinity National Forest area and, in this specific case, Canyon Creek. It is unfortunate that the drastically outdated 1872 Mining Law is still on the books and now threatens our precious public lands. A

Open pit mining is environmentally devastating to the land and habitat. The environment in question is too ecologically important in its natural state, and, it takes a long time for it to recover from such damaging mining processes. B As evidenced by the previous Blue Bird open pit mine in the same area of Canyon Creek, it is highly questionable whether the land can ever really recover. Even after many years and numerous restoration efforts, the Blue Bird mine area remains deeply scarred and desolate. It appears that you simply cannot restore the quality of top soil after it has been removed, sifted, and extracted of its minerals during the mining process.

The area is too fragile and too steep to accommodate the massive mining proposed by Master Petroleum. The vast amounts of top soil and trees to be cut are more than the ecology of the area can handle. C D I understand that the mining process requires anywhere from 120,000 to 300,000 gallons of water per day. It is proposed that this water will come out of the East Fork Canyon Creek. Anyone who analyzes the flow in this creek, especially during the summer months, has to wonder if it has enough water to even accommodate such an excessive draw on its resources. E

I ask that you please do what you can to ensure that this beautiful land and water source is protected and preserved from the devastating damage of the proposed open pit mine. Please apply stringent environmental study and review to ensure that the proposed mine does not violate the National Environmental Policy Act, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and/or the Trinity River Restoration Plan. F I believe that Canyon Creek should be protected as a Wild and Scenic River due to its outstanding values for recreation, visual quality, scenery, and steelhead/salmon habitat. G H I

Thank you for your considerate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Juliana Krause

P.S. I have enclosed a copy of a letter I sent to our elected officials (listed below).

Cc: Senators Barbara Boxer and Diane Feinstein; Representative Wally Herger; State Senator Samuel Aanestad; State Assembly Member Patty Berg

LETTER 65-1

# Juliana Krause

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PO Box 1213, Weaverville, CA 96093  
(530) 623-3911; email: maitri121@yahoo.com

July 22, 2004

Senator Barbara Boxer  
1700 Montgomery Street, Suite 240  
San Francisco CA 94111

Dear Senator Boxer:

I am writing to inform you about an important environmental concern in the Canyon Creek area of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. [One of the most popular gateways to the Trinity Alps Wilderness is now threatened by a Texas-based company, Master Petroleum, as part of the Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining claim. This open pit mine would remove about 1 ½ million tons of soil and gravels to extract gold on at least 22 acres of our public land, the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. The proposed mining operation would last up to 25 years and is located directly adjacent to Canyon Creek, an eligible Wild and Scenic River in Northern California.] [J K]

[The creek side forest would be stripped of vegetation, including old growth Douglas Firs on the way to the immensely popular Canyon Creek trailhead.] [An estimated 150,000 to 300,000 gallons of water would be used each day from the East Fork of Canyon Creek, depleting the flows and impacting water quality for the Canyon Creek watershed, all the way from the Wilderness boundary.] [E] [L M]

Past mining has taken a serious toll on salmon runs in California's northcoast rivers. However, streams such as Canyon Creek have been slowly recovering and are now once again becoming an important source of high-quality, cold water in the Trinity-Klamath River Basin. The proposed mining project poses a serious threat to water quality and fisheries in the basin. [Salmon will be impacted by increased turbidity, sediment, temperature, lower water levels, and poor water quality.] [In addition, mercury in the soil and left over from past mining is likely to get into the water, threatening the health of anyone who swims, recreates, eats the fish, or drinks the water from Canyon Creek.] [N O P Q] [F]

It is unfortunate that the seriously outdated and misguided 1872 Mining Law is still on the books. It is for this reason that we are even facing this current threat to our public lands. I ask that you please do what you can to ensure that this beautiful land and water source is protected and preserved from the devastating damage of the proposed open pit mine. [It is important that stringent environmental study and review takes place to ensure that the proposed mine does not violate the National Environmental Policy Act, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and/or the Trinity River Restoration Plan.] [I believe that Canyon Creek should be protected as a Wild and Scenic River due to its outstanding values for recreation, visual quality, scenery, and steelhead/salmon habitat.] [G H I] [F]

Thank you for your considerate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Juliana Krause

P.S. I've attached a copy of the letter I sent to Mike Mitchell of the U.S. Forest Service.

Cc: Mike Mitchell, U.S. Forest Service (Shasta-Trinity National Forest)

✓

Marcia Wheeler  
P.O. Box 1127  
Hayfork, CA 96041  
July 23, 2004

Mike Mitchell  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I am writing you because I am concerned about the impact that the proposed open pit mining on Canyon Creek will have on the environment and the economy of Trinity County. As a resident of this county, I feel a responsibility to help protect it from any exploitation that will cause long term harm to the area and its people.

What could be more important than preserving this county's natural beauty and waters for all who wish to enjoy them? Certainly, not the gold that Master Petroleum, Inc. supposedly hopes to obtain from this business venture. The amount of gold they would obtain would surely not sufficiently justify the amount of damage this operation would inflict. How can we know that this is not merely a tax write-off or some scheme to secure more profits at the expense of our poor county?

We are indeed fortunate to have the resources that continue to enrich our personal lives and our economy. Please do not let a Texas oil company destroy what so many other counties in the state wish they had—clean water, flourishing wildlife habitat, and natural beauty. I vehemently oppose giving permission for this transgression against the environment and the people committed to its protection.

Sincerely,



Marcia Wheeler



Dear Bob Hemus,

It has come to my attention through local media sources and also by word of mouth from concerned outdoorsmen and women that there is a proposed open pit-mining project that would be located adjacent to Canyon Creek in the Trinity Alps area. From my understanding this is also called the Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claim. [This is a very popular area as most area residents are aware, and popular to a variety of uses, both historically and those that are more prevalent today such as outdoor recreational activities such as camping, hiking, angling, and wildlife watching] I have seen many areas with [A B] obvious signs of past mining such as rock piles and signs of hydraulic mining. It has since become an area that has gained more worth than gold with its use as a dynamic recreational and wildlife habitat area.

My personal opinion is that there should be a special exemption for this area to prohibit this claim and any future claims from being made near important water sources in this area. [What is disturbing with this plan is the abuse that will be placed upon this important tributary to the Trinity River, the Canyon Creek.] [The proximity to the Canyon [C] Creek and to the people coming to appreciate this beautiful area is simply too close.] [The [D] need for large volumes of water to be used in the mining operation is simply an unintelligent allowance to a private company which will leave the area with their money and leave us only pollution when the gold and their ability to make money has all been consumed.] [Essentially all steps to return this area to its proper natural state will be wiped [E F G] out by this new possibility of abuse.] [Surely there would be a negative impact on water quality, temperature, and particulate concentration that would negatively affect Salmon and other aquatic life's basic needs for survival.] [We are at a time when more and more [G H I] research is being made on the needs for Salmon, Steelhead, and other river creatures to survive and prosper. We also have witnessed the devastating fish die offs recently, which surely saddened most.

[We also live in an area that's economy is in a transitional phase. Transforming itself from a resource based economy (logging, mining) to a tourism-based economy.] [J] [Although the area will continue to provide natural resources in future years, we will see a growing interest from outdoor enthusiasts from not only our area, California, and the various States of our country, but also from international travelers and hikers who desire

to find those all too rare wilderness paradises. The Trinity Alps are easily one of the best mountain hiking areas in the world. The rivers and lakes hold fish for anglers such as myself. The rivers also provide angling, rafting, and kayaking for thousands annually. I would imagine the area could easily make National Park status with the proper persuasions to those with the authority to save areas for enjoyment and preservation. The number of visitors choosing to use this particular area for their excursions into the Trinity Alps Wilderness are likely greater than just about any other access point in the Trinity Alps. The Canyon Creek Lakes are often the destination, however day hikers frequent the area to take advantage of the waterfall a few miles up the trail and rewarding mountain views that occur within a mile or so of the trailhead parking lot. In short, this area is too vital in its importance as an aquatic habitat and tributary and also in its use as a gateway into the wilderness areas for a mine of this nature to be allowed. The mine claim system is antiquated making its own legality questionable. I appreciate your time and efforts in preserving our lands. I know visitors and fish for years to come will also appreciate the consideration for the earth's majesty. I know the visitors I talk to daily at the hotel I work at appreciate the nature of our area tremendously and they contribute back to the local economies way more than this mining company ever will.

Sincerely,



Peter A. Castellano

NICOLA B. WALKER  
BOX 101  
HAYFORK, CA 96041

JULY 23, 2004

MIKE MITCHELL  
SHASTA-TRINITY NATIONAL FOREST  
WEAVERVILLE RANGER STATION  
P.O. BOX 1190  
WEAVERVILLE, CA 96093

DEAR MR. MITCHELL,

AS A LANDHOLDING VOTER OF TRINITY COUNTY FOR THE LAST 27 YEARS, I AM WRITING TO EXPRESS MY SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT THE NEW PROPOSED MASTER PETROLEUM GOLD MINING SITES ON CANYON CREEK. I AM OPPOSED TO THE PROJECT FOR SEVERAL REASONS: A

1. FISHERIES - TAKING HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF GALLONS OF WATER OUT OF THE BIG EAST FORK OF CANYON CREEK COULD SERIOUSLY AFFECT THE TRINITY RIVER SALMONIDS ADVERSELY, & NEGATE THE MILLIONS CURRENTLY BEING SPENT BY TAXPAYERS TO RESTORE THESE WATERS. B

2. TOURISM - CANYON CREEK IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL & MOST POPULAR TRAILHEAD IN THE TRINITY ALPS. THOUSANDS OF TOURISTS A YEAR COME TO VIEW & SPEND MONEY IN TRINITY COUNTY FOR THIS REASON. WHEN THEY LEARN THAT MINING TRUCKS WILL BE ON THE NARROW (OFTEN, ONE LANE) ROAD, FOR SUBSTANTIAL PERIODS OF TIME

FOR YEARS TO COME, THEY WILL PROBABLY CROSS IT OFF THEIR LIST. [C D]

[3. TIMBER - THIS BEAUTIFUL STRETCH OF FOREST (INCLUDING SOME OLD GROWTH) IS NOT REPLACABLE. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO REGROW THIS KIND OF STREAM-COOLING TIMBER FROM SCRATCH, WITH NO SHADE IN 100°+ SUMMER WEATHER, AS EVIDENCED BY THE DESOLATE PATCH OF STORTHISTLE WHICH WAS ONCE THERE, NEARBY, BLUEBIRD MINE. AS YOU KNOW, IT HAS BEEN REPLANTED MANY TIMES, OVER MANY YEARS, BY JUNCTION CITY SCHOOL CHILDREN, AS WELL AS THE FOREST SERVICE.] E

I HAVE HIKED & CAMPED WITH MY FAMILY & FRIENDS IN CANYON CREEK FOR MANY YEARS & LOOK FORWARD TO TAKING MY LITTLE GRANDCHILDREN THERE IN YEARS TO COME. ENCOUNTERS WITH OTHER HIKERS INCLUDE PEOPLE FROM GERMANY, JAPAN, SOUTH AMERICA, & MANY STATES IN THE U.S. PLEASE HELP PRESERVE CANYON CREEK'S WORLD-CLASS WILDERNESS.

SINCERELY,

Nirka B. Walker

# Advanced Software Applications, Inc.

1107 Meridian Circle – Santa Rosa, CA 95401 – [peppin@sonic.net](mailto:peppin@sonic.net)  
phone 707.543.8055 – web site: [www.sonic.net/~peppin/cuprite](http://www.sonic.net/~peppin/cuprite)

23 July 2004

Mike Mitchell  
Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Dear Mr. Mitchell;

I have been asked by a river runner with Bigfoot to write a letter to do with the proposed mining operations on Canyon Creek. My first visit to this area was in 1960; my most recent one was April of this year. I have walked extensively in the high Trinity Alps, and now work on a book project to describe the beauties of the higher lakes not directly accessible by trails.

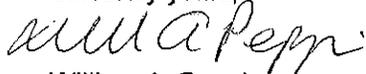
The special nature of Canyon Creek can be noted by the fact that essentially every compendium of hiking trails of California, and some of the western U.S., mentions the walk up Canyon Creek to the lakes as highly recommended. Your records will show that this area is the most heavily visited in the Alps. This clearly identifies that part of the stream within the wilderness area as one of special importance. A

Mining activity has wrought despoliation all across the Klamath-Trinity watershed; the remnants of these atrocious, exploitative activities are a blight to the whole basin in terms of lands tom up, watersheds disturbed, fisheries disrupted, and visual values impacted. B C D What is the future of Trinity County? E Is it in continued exploitation of mineral resources, a rather small potential component to the economic activity? F Recently, the courts have allocated 300,000 to 800,000 acre-feet of water from Clair Engle reservoir to bolster the flow of the Trinity River for restoration of salmon habitat, with support of the local residents. G H Clearly, the future of the county is in attracting tourism, through such non-invasive activities as river running, hiking, climbing, fishing, and sightseeing. Further land rapes *a la* the 19<sup>th</sup> century despoliation still so evident is inconsistent with these future activities. I

Now comes an out-of-state corporation who expects to make some money on a rather small gold resource. Whose interests are served by such a project? With Nevada producing some ten million ounces of gold per annum, this new project serves absolutely no interest outside of profit making for a relatively small number of individuals who are doubtless already quite rich: the argument that such a small operation serves national need is ludicrous, the alleged shortage of gold notwithstanding. J As the website points out, Canyon Creek throughout its length, including the area of proposed gold removal on the East Fork, is an area of rich biodiversity. K Moreover, tourism and sightseeing will be negatively impacted by a mining operation in this major Trinity County destination. An active operation will interfere with users of the wilderness and others, to the detriment of local residents. I can see no way for locals to benefit from the proposed mining operations. L Such an operation is also inconsistent with the major efforts underway to restore the salmon habitat in the Trinity River. M

This area is precious! I beseech you to say NO! to commercialism in this special area which has already seen the ravages of such activity. Shall we finally hear Chief Seattle, and admit that we belong to the land rather than the reverse?

Sincerely yours,

  
William A. Peppin

572 29<sup>th</sup> St # 3  
SFCA 94131  
June 25, 2004

Ms Joyce Anderson  
District Ranger  
Weaverville, R.S.

Dear Ms Andersen:

I am alarmed at the prospect of  
mining for gold near Canyon Creek by  
Master Petroleum Inc.

[Please consider the harm to the  
natural environment that could  
result from this project] A

Sincerely,  
Jay Lyon  
Jay Lyon

From:

Jennifer Johnson  
809 J. St. #1  
Eureka, CA 95501

Monday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Dear Mike Mitchell,

I recently visited the proposed open-pit gold mining area on the eligible wild and scenic Canyon Creek adjacent to the Trinity Alps Wilderness in Northern California. The Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claim is being explored by Texas-owned Master Petroleum, Inc. [The company seeks to develop mining claims on Public Lands, and this is clearly not acceptable.] A

[Not only am I concerned about the vegetation and soil removal that is necessary to develop such a claim] but [I am also] B C concerned about the impact such development would have upon the fisheries in Canyon Creek. D Undoubtedly, [Sediment run-off from the land would increase the turbidity of the creek,] E which [would have a negative effect upon current fish populations]. Moreover, this D land is public, and large, [corporate mining ventures are not in] the public interest with respect to this beautiful land. F

As a concerned citizen of Eureka, California, who frequently visits public lands, I urge you to do all you can to stop the Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining claims from being developed by Master Petroleum, Inc.

Thank you  
Jennifer R. Johnson

11.2.04

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

Our local newspaper carried an article about the possible development of open pit gold mining in Canyon Creek area of the Trinity Alps.

I was surprised and disgusted that this would even be possible. I have been backpacking and vacationing at least twice a year in these mountains since 1976. [They are a precious and beautiful Resource] [They are worth so ~~not~~ much more as a protected and restored area that offers locals and visitors alike a wonderful adventure. A

[It is my understanding that Canyon Creek was being considered for Wild and Scenic River status.] [How can the Forest Service who is respon- B

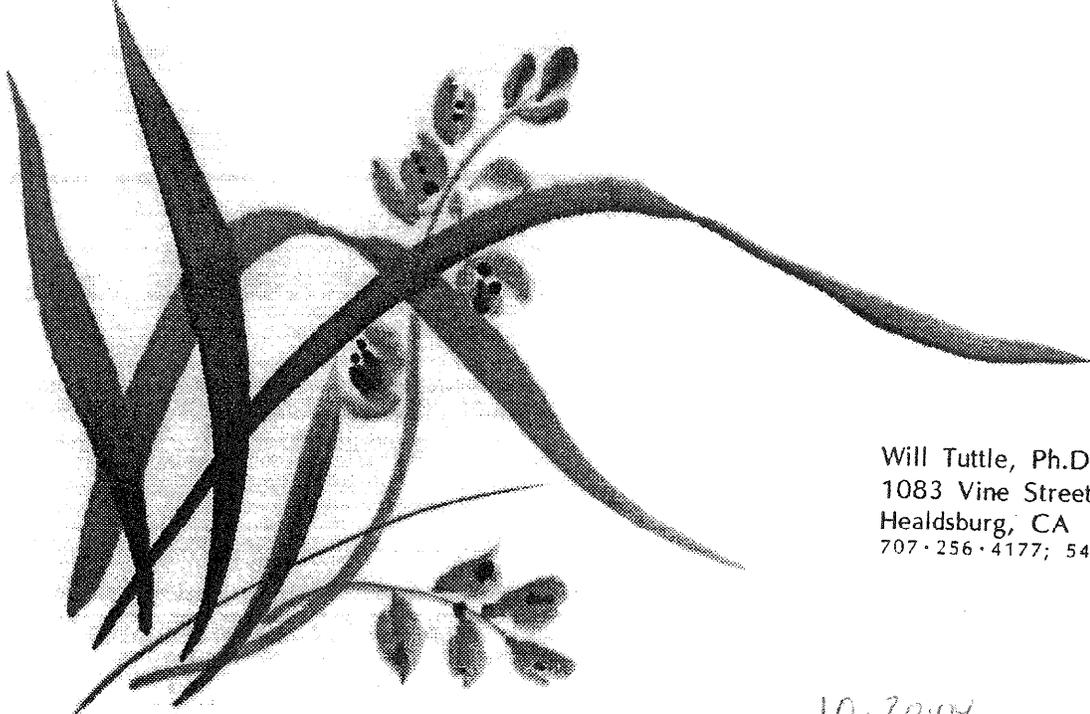
S. G. 204

sible for its protection also  
consider something that  
would degrade it so  
drastically? [I urge you to] [c]  
deny this potential plan.

[Please notify me  
when the EIS is available  
for consideration]. [D]

Thank you,

Celeste Felciano  
p.o. box 863  
Glen Ellen, Ca.  
95442



Will Tuttle, Ph.D.  
1083 Vine Street, #105  
Healdsburg, CA 95448-3609  
707-256-4177; 540-588-1311 (fax)

10.20.04

Dear Michael Mitchell,

I'm writing to urge you and the Forest Service to deny the Canyon Creek plan to allow Master Petroleum mining access.

[Also please notify me when the draft EIS is available - ] A

Thanks,

Will Tuttle  
S

June 17, 2004

Peggy Schueler  
1620 Fig Avenue  
Redding, CA 96001  
530-244-9932

District Ranger  
P.O.Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Re: Trinity 1-8 Proposed Open Pit Mine on Canyon Creek

I'm writing to register my heartfelt, [strong opposition to the proposed  
Trinity 1-8 open pit mine on Canyon Creek.] I've been finding peace and [A  
renewal at Canyon Creek for twenty-five years now, and dearly love it.  
[Please register my opposition and keep me updated on any  
developments.] Thank you. [B

Sincerely,



Michael R. Curran  
Co-Chairman, Canyon Creek Coalition  
59435 Canyon Creek Rd.  
Junction City, CA 96048

530.623.3904

8/26/04

To: Mike Mitchell  
PO Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

RE: Master Petroleum Inc. proposal, Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

The lower reaches of Canyon Creek have a history of extensive resource extraction and abuse. This is addressed in the existing watershed analysis (for the North Fork Trinity River, East Fork of the North Fork, and Canyon Creek) where it states that "mining has irreversibly altered riparian land." For a Tier 1 key watershed, which Canyon Creek is, the Forest Service is obligated to oversee the restoration of such areas and consider the implications of future projects. By reading the existing watershed analysis, one finds it very incomplete in addressing such issues, either past, present, or for the future. Thus, the onus is on the Forest Service to redo this 'analysis' before any future project can be accepted. A B

The proposal by MP Inc. calls for an allocation of 135 acre feet per year (120,000-190,000 gallons per day or 0.23-0.37 cubic feet per second) from the Big East Fork. If an improved watershed analysis is to be completed it must include flow studies for these systems. To even conceive of a project using such an amount of water there must first be a flow regime completed for the Big East Fork, for a full year, and placed in context of where it lies (as a year) with historical rainfall amounts. There should also be daily assessments of water flow, turbidity, etc. both above and below the proposed project, all of which should be paid for by the proponents, not the taxpayers whose land this concerns. C

Another issue is road use and disturbance. Canyon Creek Road is a county designated 'Scenic Roadway'. The proposal (pg. 15, sec. 5,

part B) states that "travel on the existing roads and the mine site roads will be minimal." But, the proposal also plans to process 55,000 cubic yards per year and Area #4 ore is to be processed at Area #2. Thus, it requires trucking the ore in a 10yd. dump truck on Canyon Creek Road, across the small steel bridge, and up National Forest Road 35N47Y. That equates to 5,500 trips, or 11,000 times across the bridge per year, which is a minimum of 25 times per day or on the bridge on average every 9.5 minutes for an 8hr. day. Minimal? [D]

[While the Formal Endangered Species Consultation (FESC) for the test pit is very thorough for the northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*), it fails to address others. This is most likely from a lack of historical surveys to convey presence/absence. The FESC is also contradictory in places and slightly misconstrued. It states on page 1 that one of the federally listed entities which the proposal would have *no effect* on is "designated northern spotted owl habitat." That is not a listed entity. The northern spotted owl is. The issue is whether or not there will be an effect on the species. If one goes 25 pages deeper, in section 4.1.2.2 it explains that habitat loss is the primary threat to the owl, and since the project will remove prime nesting/roosting habitat in a Late Successional Reserve, the "effects of the proposed project do constitute an adverse effect to the species." Which one is it, 'no effect' or an 'adverse effect'? [E]

[The bond for the proposed project is also of major concern. The area contains very biologically diverse and sensitive ecozones. As we have experienced with past projects, the bond is never sufficient. Thus, it is of dire need that the bond posted for this project must be adequate to fully restore these areas. [F]

[Finally, and most importantly, this project must comply and meet all of the objectives under the Aquatic Conservation Strategy, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, Trinity River Restoration Plan, etc. The Preferred Alternative under NEPA must also address these issues and meet the pursuant guidelines or else this project will be in violation, hence making it illegal! [G]

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Michael Curran

Co-Chairman Canyon Creek Coalition

August 18, 2004

Dear Mike Mitchell,

We have lived on Canyon Creek for thirty years.

We've seen first-hand the devastating impact of open-pit mining on three other, small to large scale, mining operations; the Bluebird, Crazy Jims, & Dedrick, therefore we have many concerns.

We support small scale mining and dredging. We have no personal issues with Gloria and Cullen [but we are against their plan for Trinity 1-8 Placer Mine Project.] [A] Also, we support logging, but are [adamantly against clear cutting and this is what they will be doing to second growth and old growth timber.] [B]

[In late February 2004, we witnessed, first-hand, steelhead migrating up Canyon Creek in great numbers, jumping the falls just past the second bridge, just above the East Fork, something that we've not seen in 20-25 years.]

We are very concerned that this operation may affect this fish migration, which is just returning. [C]

[We have great concerns about the impact on the scenic beauty,] which brings [D] us to the bond issue. [We believe the bond should be much higher, to meet the needs of the actual restoration, unlike the three before mentioned mines.] [E]

[We would hope that daily monitoring of the water, above the mine and below, would be done and we feel the mine owners should be financially responsible for this monitoring, not the tax payers.] [F]

Our country has spent decades restoring our lands, forests and rivers, yet our antiquated laws concerning mining supercede all progress.

[All environmental parameters, involving this operation, should be adhered to, to the fullest and watched with concern.] [G]

We need to change the laws of mining and not let this operation proceed and move into the future.

Sincerely,



Megan A. Curran & James E. Curran,  
Canyon Creek Coalition Members

Mike Mitchell  
POB # 1190

Page 1 of 2

Weaverville, CA 96093

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

I recently travelled to Junction City to walk in the wilderness of the Trinity Alps and to inspect the proposed Master Petroleum Placer mine up on Canyon Creek.

I am an environmental attorney and briefly reviewed the April 7, 2004 Amended Plan of Operation while inspecting the proposed mine.

[I am concerned that the plan contemplates removal of timber and soils within 150 feet of Canyon Creek. It seems that this project would have a significant impact to riparian vegetation, just as a matter of California Department of Fish and Game Best Management Practices. It is my understanding that Federal requirements for riparian set-backs are ~~significantly~~ ~~larger than~~ 300 feet.] ABC

[As a citizen of the State of California who enjoys recreation on the Trinity River (Scuba, kayak, etc)] I ask that you require [D]

strict compliance with environmental regulations and resolve all doubts in favor of protecting the environment. I would not be visiting a mining operation; I'm visiting what would be destroyed by

the mining operation.

Thank you,  
Stephen T. Davies

LETTER 77-1

Turner-Litigation Services POB 319, Eureka CA 95502

PS.

Mike:

[I would like to see some vegetation analysis. As a member of the public, my ability to comment on the plan is limited by the absence of any vegetation analysis.] I saw the bluebird mine on the way in and it looked like timber was not being replaced. We should know what kind of timber is present so we know what to replace. E

[Also, please provide explanation for conclusions that the proposed project complies with the National Environmental Policy Act. It doesn't appear obvious at all. (See comment previous page).] F

[Make the mine operator responsible for revegetation until such time as all vegetation repl. Replanting is the same age as the vegetation removed. I.E. If they remove a 75 year old Doug fir, make the operator ~~make~~ investigate for 25 years ~~the cost~~ (the change of the tree) G

Thanks,

Stephen

July 16, 2004

Mike Mitchell  
Shasta - Trinity Nat'l Forest  
P.O. Box #1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

Re: Master Petroleum Proposed  
Open Pit Mine on Canyon Creek

I strongly **OPPOSE** the  
proposed Open Pit Gold Mine project  
on Canyon Creek. **A**

I came all the way from San Diego to vacation, backpack, camp, photograph, learn, explore & appreciate the Trinity Alps watershed wilderness & streams. Even though I live in S. CALIF. I love the Shasta - Trinity N. Forest & have my 2-week vacation to be in the Trinity.

I oppose this mine because of the negative impact on **RECREATION**. **B** I backpacked up →

Canyon Creek trail to Canyon Creek  
Lakes & Boulder Creek. It was  
a glorious, fantastic remarkable  
experience. ~~Our~~ Our 4-day backpack  
was marvelous! Canyon Creek  
is truly a pristine river.

Secondly, I oppose this  
project because ~~of~~ the negative  
impact on the fish. The  
river is just recovering & we  
must protect the pristine river. c

Please record my opposition  
to this project.

Sincerely,

Camille Armstrong

11572 Alkaid Dr

San Diego, CA 92126

23 year public school  
teacher

August 25, 2004

Dear Mike Mitchell,

My name is Michael Bradford. You know who I am and that I have been working with the Trinity Alps Wilderness Patrol for five seasons. I'm also a Trinity County resident who has lived, worked and played here for over twenty-five years. I have written this letter out of concern for the proposed mining operations of Master Petroleum Incorporated.

[As you are aware, Canyon Creek is Trinity County's most treasured and popular corridor into the heart of the Trinity Alps Wilderness.] The effects that may ensue involving the proposed mining [A] operations of Master Petroleum Inc. and the Canyon Creek corridor are of grave concern to the local community, myself included. I realize that from a political standpoint there seems to be nothing that can be done to stop the proposed mining. However, I hope this letter will help to voice the concerns the community has regarding this proposal. The letter addresses these concerns from three perspectives: countywide, logistical, and personal, all of which I feel the Forest Service has the power to address if you find it necessary and justifiable to do so.

[I will begin by addressing the issues that I feel Trinity County should take into consideration while reviewing the current proposal. Within the proposed plan of operations submitted, Master Petroleum requests the option to purchase the balance of merchantable timber. **If Master Petroleum is allowed to purchase the timber will they be paying top or bottom dollar for this timber?** Will the option to purchase this timber be open to all? And will the any money from the harvested timber be returned to Trinity County, or go into general government coffers?] Second, if Master Petroleum Inc.'s proposal is [B] accepted, what statement does this make for corporate mining in Trinity County? [How quickly will our public lands turn into playgrounds for corporate bidding and how will the small time local mining

operations compete? It is obvious that our county is dependent upon tourism to keep a healthy economy. C  
What will be the long-term effects of corporate mining on the tourism of Trinity County? D

Second, I would like to address the logistical concerns I share over the proposed mining operations. The biggest concern I hold revolves around the statement made on page 4 of the M.P. Plan of Operations, regarding Area #1's test pit. "The outcome of testing this Area #1 does not have any influence on the areas of #2, #3 and #4 as these areas will be mined **regardless** of the outcome of Area #1." It is stated that this test pit does not have any influence on areas #2, #3 and #4. However, the test pit E is located within the RC333 area of Canyon Creek (late succession reserve), which has been proven to hold a spotted owl. The results of this test pit may not influence Master Petroleum's decisions of these areas; **however, the removal of this test area does affect spotted owl habitat, as stated in 4.1.2**

#### **Habitat Modification Related Effects of Trinity 1 through 8 mining test pit (Fish and Wildlife**

**Service pg. 25).** My concern here is that, if this test pit is approved (which it has been) and is carried out, F the removal of the timber in this area will ultimately affect the findings of the overall E.P.A. (Environmental Protection Agency) assessment. On the National Public Radio broadcast you mentioned that the Forest Service would be conducting a fly over to help assess the quality of Late Succession Reserve. That a roughly two-acre test pit will leave a similar sized hole in the canopy, should significantly affect your overall study of the area. G

Obviously, conducting environmental studies of the proposed mine site is important, that is why I bring up my next point of concern. Master Petroleum's proposal requests the use of "190,000 gallons of new water per. day, 22 days per month and 10+/- months per year (Master Petroleum Incorporated Plan of Operations Proposal pg.12). I mention the intended water use because I know that the Forest Service does not have flow studies for the Big East Fork of Canyon Creek. On the National Public Radio broadcast Cullen Thomas, Vice President of Master Petroleum Inc. as well as the Geologist, talked of the Big East

Fork as being sixteen feet wide and six feet deep. Not even the main fork of the Trinity River fills these dimensions in summer months. I mention this to highlight the point that there has not been a credible flow study done on the Big East Fork of Canyon Creek. Most certainly there has not been a credible enough study to warrant the use of 190,000 gallons of water 22 days a month, 10 months a year. [H]

[The last group of concerns I would like to address are my personal concerns for the well being of Canyon Creek and it's inhabitants. Trinity County has had a history of poor resource stewardship. It has only been in recent years that resource management has been directed toward conservation and recreational use. [Earlier, I mentioned Canyon Creek as being our most popular Wilderness corridor to the Trinity Alps Wilderness. [One of my fears is the resulting effect Master Petroleum might have on this Wilderness corridor. Master Petroleum proposes the use of one D-8 cat dozer, one 950 end loader, one EL 200 excavator, one John Deere backhoe, one dump truck, one 150kw power plant, one wash plant, one grizzly, as well as various conveyors, sluices and pumps (Master Petroleum Inc. Mining Proposal pg.13). With the use of all of this equipment, it is hard to imagine Canyon Creek in the tranquil state that so many people enjoy. Resulting noise pollution will also have an adverse effect on animal species. Animals unable to communicate above the din often breed less successfully than comparable animals that enjoy nature's silence. [Another result of the proposed mine site will viewshed deterioration.. On page twelve of the mining proposal Master Petroleum proposes a forty-foot barrier between the road and the mine site. Forty feet of terrain is not much cover for a twenty plus acre mine site. Furthermore, the forty foot buffer does not address the visual impact one will see from Canyon Creek road, across the creek, and to the Southwest. [Last, I would like to express my concern for fish populations. Canyon Creek is the only significant tributary to the Trinity River that has not been designated Wild and Scenic. Despite the area not being designated, it meets many of the criteria. Most importantly, the salmon have only recently returned to the Canyon Creek watershed. The potential for soil runoff is tremendous, if not quite as dire

of a threat as the removal of water from the Big East Fork. In late summer Canyon Creek slows to a trickle in some areas. **I fear that the removal of 190,000 gallons of water a day (during peak mining, hiking, swimming and summer months) might lower the Canyon Creek flow to dangerous levels,** posing a threaten to the fry, smolt, and salmon populations that reside here and run here through the summer. ] M N

[ Canyon Creek is a unique and special place. Not only is it a geological marvel, it also holds sentimental, spiritual, and scenic values for many people local and tourist. I believe that the Forest Service holds Canyon Creek in similar regard. ] I trust that while reviewing Master Petroleum Incorporated ] O P proposal you will consider the issues and concerns I have expressed above and choose to move cautiously in making any related decisions. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Bradford  
Trinity Alps Wilderness Patrol  
& Proud Member of the  
Canyon Creek Coalition

# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
Division of  
General Internal Medicine

400 PARNASSUS AVENUE, A-405  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94143-0320  
(+15) +76-+362  
(+15) +76- 796+ FAX

August 25, 2004

Dear Mr. McLean:

I am writing to express my strong concern about and objection to the granting of water use rights by a gold mine operation 15 miles from the Buddhist Center (Rigdzin Ling) in Junction City. A

As a member of the larger Rigdzin Ling community who visits there on a regular basis from San Francisco, I feel that this level of water used would have dire and adverse effects on the water table of the region. B

Sincerely,

Ellen Hughes, MD, PhD  
Clinical Professor of Medicine

Francis Sommer  
4655 1/2 Excelsior Rd.  
Eureka, CA 95503

July 18, 2004.

Dear Mrs. Mitchell.

I have visited the Master Petroleum Open Pit proposed mining sites and ~~seen them~~ <sup>walked through</sup> ~~underfoot~~. Their plan sounds so effective and considerate on paper. Yet when seen in person, it is clearly impracticable.

For example, site #2, above Canyon Creek, includes involves a cliff of unstable rocks of varying geological formations that time has not fused together. [The 60° slope proposed will not prevent much of this landing in Canyon Creek immediately below]. [The holding ponds intended to contain [A] the 55 gallon drums of toxic materials are not even to be lined. Thus, material from any spills will <sup>seep</sup> in spill ... downhill into the creek.] [B]

[Additionally, the trees to be cut for site #4 protect the wildlife ~~climatically~~ climatically. The temperature difference on a hot day is considerable.] [C D]

The "reclaimed" Bluebird site is not reclaimed. The casual observer will notice this immediately. It is sticker-filled grass, and a couple of 1-2 foot high pines that have (the success of the local elementary school's diligent efforts). In fact, the local school and the Forest Service have struggled together for 20 years to return it to forest. With all the topsoil removed, this is impossible.

Please oppose this proposal! Thank you.

Francis Sommer

Dear Mr. Mike Mitchell,

In my humble opinion, I must express to you that I have experienced the amazing beauty and sanctuary of the Trinity Alps Wilderness.

**A** I am highly opposed to the 1-8 Place Mining Claim on the Shasta Trinity National Forest. **C** [This open pit mine would

destroy one of America's national treasures which is the land of the people. National Forest land belongs to the people of America and is called the "land of many uses," not for stripping it of its resources -

**B** but for recreation. **C** I strongly urge you to stop this entire mining project and to fight to

**C** save this beautiful land, our salmon species, our water, and our forests. **D** I am looking to you to make

**E** the right decisions which is within the best interest of the people that live off of this land and the animals that inhabit these forests. Be a good leader and

please stop this environmentally destructive project from occurring. I am putting trust in you!!! I am a registered voter in California and I say that this project just stinks and needs to be eliminated.

Thank you,

Deana Barone  
583 Essex Lane  
Arcata, CA 95521  
LETTER 82

Mike Mitchell  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

July 18, 2004

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

I have recently moved to Humboldt County & looking forward to spending time in the Trinity Alps. I recently visited 2 sites for proposed open pit mining near Cold Canyon Creek.

[I have many concerns the most alarming is the effect on the river. The site are such that when looking at them I am not comfortable with the idea that it will not cause a lot of sediment to go in the creek [A] & [the slope where the ponds would be look extremely unstable] • [also the amount of water [B] taken from the creek would impact the fish & wildlife that depend on it. [C] [D]

[The second concern is that when mined in the past much mercury was found. It will be disturbed, it will attach to the sediment - end up in the river & cause many toxic & dangerous conditions.] [E]  
I urge you to not allow this project to go forward. Thank you for your attention & concern for this wilderness area.

Sincerely,  
Mike Mitchell

- P.O. Box 394

Miranda, CA 95553  
LETTER 8353

Mike Mitchell

I am concerned with  
the mining that is proposed  
in the canyon creek watershed  
[I am strongly opposed to this  
Mining], [A] and [as a hiker,  
Boater and fisherman, the  
environmental impact on  
the canyon creek watershed  
and the Trinity river will  
have a direct impact on  
my recreation] [B C]

please don't allow this  
to continue...

thank you

Aram Pearman  
1016 F<sup>3<sup>rd</sup></sup>, #8  
Arcata, CA

95521

Dear Micheal Mitchell,

I'm writing to ask you to

[deny Master Petroleum permission  
to mine at Canyon Creek just  
outside of the Trinity Wilderness.]

A

[Allowing this company to  
open pit mine in such a  
beautiful and fragile environ-  
ment] <sup>would cause</sup> ~~would~~ <sup>be</sup> ~~be~~ <sup>irrevocable</sup>  
~~destructive~~ [damage to the

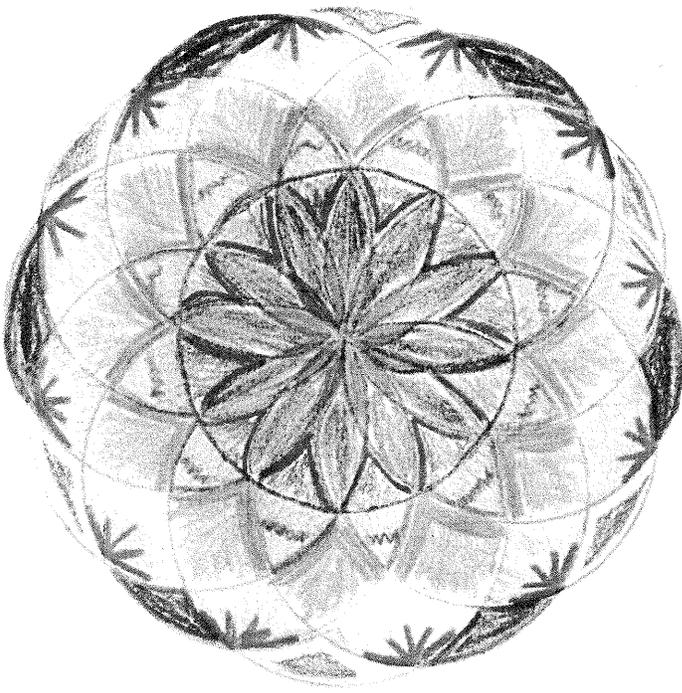
B

Created by Elisa  
Big Lagoon Charter School  
269 Big Lagoon Park Road  
Trinidad, CA 95570  
707-677-3877

Area around the creek,  
and would have disastrous  
consequences on the Trinity  
River into which the Canyon  
Creek flows. You have the  
power to ~~do~~ deny this  
claim. I urge you to  
do so. Thank you for  
protecting our natural heritage.

Jen Mushkin  
Box 574 Trinidad, 95570

C



Aug 29<sup>th</sup> 2004

Dear Michael Mitchell

If this open pit mine on Canyon Creek is allowed:

[1) This beautiful spot of old growth trees which grows near the creek will be destroyed.] A B

[2) The significant reduced flow of water in Canyon Creek during the summer months will be detrimental to wild life downstream.] C D

We own a small house at the base of Canyon Creek and have watched [the salmon during the late summer. They struggle up the moss infested waters and are barely able to navigate beyond our house,] D

allowing the water from Canyon Creek to be used for the personal financial gain of one couple is absurd... because it sets a standard of destruction for all those who follow.

[This specific site is uniquely beautiful and should be a park like entrance for all who enjoy the rich bio-diversity of Canyon Creek.] E F

I, and many others urge the Forest Service to be good custodians of the forest which belongs to all of us.

[We will be watching your actions very closely because the flood season is a good reminder of how necessary our cooperation with nature is. Do you remember the huge flood on New Years Eve approximately 5 years ago? We hope so because it is areas like this

that keep the houses on lower canyon creek safe  
from flooding.]

G

Thank you for your consideration

Catherine Burke Ludwig Burke

4185 Fickle Hill

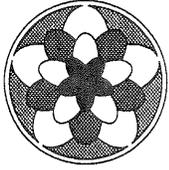
Arleta, Calif.

95521

Dawson Rd

Junction City, Calif.

96048



ANN ELIAS  
Licensed Acupuncturist

ACUPUNCTURE  
&  
Herbal Medicine

AUGUST 24<sup>TH</sup> 2009

ATTENTION: MIKE MITCHELL

REGARDING: MASTER PETROLEUM INC'S PROPOSAL  
FOR OPEN PIT MINING ON CANYON CREEK

HELLO MIKE,

[ I AM WRITING TO VOICE MY OPPOSITION TO  
THE PROPOSED MINING ON CANYON CREEK BY MASTER PETROLEUM ] A

[ THIS PROJECT WOULD CAUSE IRREPARABLE DAMAGE  
TO THE AREA AND WOULD RUIN ITS EXISTING NATURAL  
BEAUTY FOR THE DURATION OF OUR LIFETIME ] [ IT WOULD ] B  
ALSO NEGATIVELY AFFECT THE FISHERIES THAT ARE  
BEGINNING TO BE RE ESTABLISHED AND ARE STILL QUITE  
FRAGILE. ] C

[ THE ALLOWANCE FOR THIS PROJECT IS BASED ON  
AN ANTIQUATED LAW THAT SHOULD BE RECONSIDERED AS  
LAWS MADE IN THE 1800'S DO NOT REASONABLY APPLY  
TODAY. ] D

PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF ANY MORE CAN BE  
DONE TO STOP THIS PREPOSTEROUS PROPOSAL.

SINCERELY,

(530) 623-2668  
214 Main Street  
Weaverville, CA 96093

(530) 629-3454  
3003 Hwy. 96 • P.O. 560  
Willow Creek, CA 95573

# Sandra's <sup>EE</sup> Educational Services

Dedicated to the visions of Einstein & Edison . Finding & Meeting the Needs of the Student

Independent Study . Home Study . Tutoring

8-26-04

Mr. Mitchell

Enclosed are some ideas  
may or may not already  
have been considered. We  
have information at the  
Hayfork Mining District re:  
reclamation if you wish to  
contact the District. [We are  
sincere in our efforts to  
have miners & other agencies  
work together for the good  
of the future of the FORESTS] [A]

Sandra Sauer, Master Teacher

Member: CCIS, Huxley Institute, Danish System, U.B.S.

Post Office Box 251, Hayfork, California 96041

message: 628-5732 Sauer  
Sandra  
Chuck

## Feedback...

### Forest Service 'passing the buck'

FROM CHUCK & SANDRA SAUER  
HAYFORK

According to the Journal of July 21 and the recent letter from Ms. Ryberg, the Blue Bird Mine's reclamation of 20 years ago was a 90 percent failure.

Though we know nothing about the Blue Bird operation, the paper stated the Forest Service and Resource Conservation District were involved in this reclamation project. Shouldn't these two organizations also be held accountable for this 90 percent failure rate? Shouldn't the Forest Service experts know the techniques to recover and replant in the reclamation? This would have been a perfect project for both Forest Service and Resource Conservation District since it is easy access for students to learn the ways to help the trees and get rid of star thistle. Watering the trees "with little Dixie cups" by the children shows short-sightedness and no follow through.

Forest Service spokesperson Mitchell said they'll look into this failure. According to our past dealings with the Forest Service, they will not have enough money, it isn't in the budget, "that wasn't on my shift." There is no accountability. The experts do not have the experience or common sense.

In the past five years, we have been trying to work with the Forest Service, whose budget increased each of the past five years as they continued on their "quest" for over-

time and stipends as they try to evict us from our 100-year-old, hard rock mining claim. While they tested our mine rock for arsenic, they failed to test the rock they placed on nine-tenths of the Kingsbury drainage, which is two miles below us. We demanded that they test the rock they placed there, which turned out to be arsenic-laden. The ranger said they will either cover it over or remove it; that should take a lot of money that could have been used to pick up garbage or maintain a tree plantation.

Follow-through on a project and accountability are not happening on too many forest projects. Will the Canyon Creek project have any accountability? The Forest Service cannot pass an audit, according to the taxpayers for common sense.com. These are the people in charge of the bond money and how it will be spent! How many years down the road will a Forest Service employee say the same thing they said about the Blue Bird Mine? Miners cannot be blamed for no follow-through and no accountability by the Forest Service and other organizations dedicated to saving the last of the forests. Trees need to be watered more than was described in the letter.

Something has to change. Passing the buck cannot continue as it has in the past.

Local miners have said the Blue Bird Mine was covered with top soil from Oregon Mountain. Weeds grew and the Forest Service sprayed to stop the fire danger.

# This delicate fern is a sucker for arsenic

By Peter N. Spotts  
Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

What arsenic did for playwright Joseph Kesselring's "old lace" it's done for countless ranchers, orange growers, and golf-course managers: it's gotten rid of pests. Used against everything from ticks on cattle and fungus on orange trees to weed killers, arsenic also figures into many industrial processes. Yet its use has left tens of thousands of sites worldwide badly contaminated.

In today's edition of the Journal Nature, scientists in Florida report finding what may be a new ally in the battle against arsenic contamination - a lowly fern that, at least until now, state officials had branded an invasive pest.

The plant, commonly called brake fern, displays an appetite for arsenic that surprised its discoverers. Concentrations ranged up to hundreds of times higher in the plant than in the surrounding soil. Unlike many plants scientists have found thriving in metal-tainted soils, the brake fern uses its entire structure to sequester arsenic, not just its roots.

"This fern is really amazing," says Lena Ma, an associate professor in the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida in Gainesville who led the research team that found the plant.

University of Northern Arizona biochemist David Salt agrees.

"The fern is exciting," he says, adding that even if other traits render the plant inadequate to clean up contaminated sites on its own, finding the genetic key to its ability to store arsenic could help researchers engineer more-suitable plants to clean tainted sites.

Dr. Ma notes that the fern, native to China but found worldwide, was one of a number of plants her team collected from an abandoned wood-preservation site in north-central Florida. The scientists were testing the plants to see which ones might prove useful for arsenic cleanup duty. She adds that dealing with arsenic-laced sites is a top priority for Florida environmental officials. The state has some 3,200 arsenic hot spots, she says.

When they returned to the lab with soil and fern samples, the researchers measured in the contaminated soil arsenic levels ranging from 18.8 to 1,603 parts per million (p.p.m.). Brake ferns growing in that soil displayed concentrations from 1,442 to 7,526 p.p.m. Even ferns growing in uncontaminated soils, where arsenic levels ranged from 0.47 to 7.56 p.p.m., held concentrations from 11.8 to 64 p.p.m. They also found that at certain concentrations, arsenic appears to act as



TARA PUCSIO/AP

**CLEANUP DUTY:** Lena Ma led the team that discovered the ferns appetite for arsenic and its cleanup potential.

food, boosting the brake fern's biomass by up to 40 percent over ferns grown in arsenic-poor soil.

One reason for the excitement over brake ferns lies in the frustration scientists have experienced in using plants to clean up sites tainted with metals such as arsenic, lead, zinc, cadmium, nickel, and cobalt.

Plants have been more successful cleaning sites contaminated by organic solvents and fuels, Dr. Salt says. Water often is enough to liberate these chemicals

from soil particles for uptake by plants. Metals, however, are hard to liberate. He explains that if he were to place lead-contaminated soil in a glass of water, swirl it around, then strain out the soil, the water would still be fit to drink.

Two key questions Ma's team is now trying to answer focus on the mechanisms the plant uses to extract the arsenic and the defense it has built against the poisonous concentrations it harbors.

"Why it accumulates arsenic is a real mystery," she says.

Despite the plant's glowing statistics, Salt notes that, as is, the fern's suitability for site cleanup duty is unclear.

"You need substantial biomass and substantial concentrations" taken up by plants to do the job, he explains.

Moreover, plants present their own disposal problems once they've done their job, although at the end of the cleanup the volume of plant material can be up to 1,000 times less than the volume of soil back-hoes would have dug up to ship to landfills or incinerators.

Ma says her team also is looking into ways to safely dispose of the ferns once they've played their cleanup role.

# Marigold Mine has earned rosy reputation

The mine is nearly invisible in more ways than one; it's been nearly seven years since workers had a lost time accident. Activists have praise for the mine.

By **Lorrie Baumann**  
The Humboldt Sun

BATTLE MOUNTAIN, Nev. — Over time, chameleons have evolved a defensive device that protects them from predators: they've learned to blend into the background.

Call Rayrock Resources' Marigold Mine a chameleon, and Jerry Hepworth won't mind.

He's Rayrock's director of environmental health and safety, and making sure that Marigold blends almost invisibly into the austere beauty of the Battle Mountain massif behind it is a job he takes very seriously.

On an average day, around 6,500 vehicles whiz right past Marigold on Interstate 80, and most occupants of those vehicles probably never notice the mine to the south a few miles from Valmy.

"We've had suppliers call us from Battle Mountain because they missed us on the way out and headed directions back," Hepworth said. "I've called Marigold our stealth mine — we're hard to see."

The mine is nearly invisible in two ways than one. Marigold miners work very hard at keeping their names out of the newspapers.

It's been nearly seven years since they've had a lost time accident, their wildlife mortality rate is one of the best in the state, they do no dewatering, and they have won praise from northern Nevada's environmental activists.

"At the height of the drought, we had a lot of birds in here on the failings facilities, but no fatalities," Hepworth said.

"They just get their feet wet and go," added Henry Reed, Marigold senior environmental engineer.

None of that is about to change as the mine embarks on an environmental impact study for proposed expansion plans, according to Hepworth and Reed.

Hepworth hopes to have that study and the associated permitting done by the end of next year.

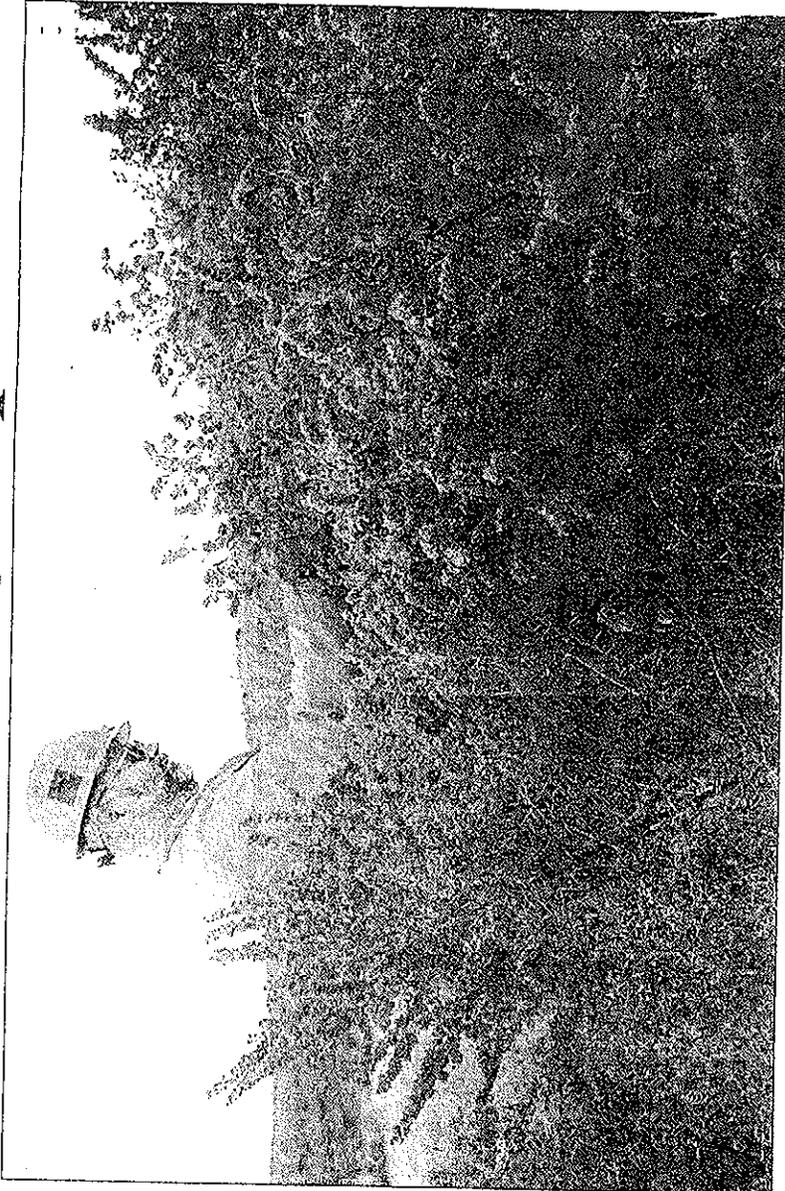
Regulatory approval of the expansion will give Marigold the operating flexibility to survive low gold prices and continue to provide jobs for around 100 employees, Hepworth said.

"The nice thing about Marigold is that we have a lot of different areas to mine from, so it allows us a little more flexibility with the varying gold price," he said.

The mine has about six years of reserves, and with continued exploration success and higher gold prices, Marigold should be able to operate at least until 2005, Hepworth said.

"We think we will be around for quite a while," he added. "We feel fairly confident that we'll keep on replacing what we process for a long time."

At the completion of the mining



AP photo  
**Henry Reed, an environmental engineer for Marigold Mine, inspects a revegetation project near the mine's entrance west of Battle Mountain, Nev.**

proposed in the expansion plan, only the top few benches of Marigold's Top Zone pit will be visible from I-80, Hepworth said.

No pit lakes are expected to develop, and all the excavated rock will be oxides that do not pose a threat of acid rock drainage from storm water leaching through them.

"It's relatively clean from an environmental standpoint," Hepworth said.

As they go, the Marigold miners

will continue their long-standing practice of concurrent reclamation. Of the 1,350 acres within the mine's current permit boundary, 205 have already been reclaimed.

One-hundred-eighty acres have been sculpted into a rolling hill covered with lush, waist-high vegetation that provides forage for the mule deer that were seen wandering there last winter.

The reclamation has been so successful that 150 acres of what is known as the "8 South Dump" have already been released by the Bureau of Land Management.

Hepworth anticipates that the remaining acreage of the reclaimed rock pile will be released after vegetation in the test plots at the top of the hill has more time to grow.

"It's a testimony to desert species and how tough they are," Hepworth said. "It's nice to be able to work with the mining engineers to say how we want this to look when we're done."

# No fairy tale: Researchers spin straw into gold

8/29/02

■ Grains contain gold in forms that seem tailor-made for industrial use.

By Peter N. Spotts

Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

Rumpelstiltskin, the fairy-tale rogue who spun straw into gold, has nothing on Miguel Yacamán and Jorge Gardea-Torresdey.

The two University of Texas researchers have developed a way to draw gold from wheat, alfalfa, or - best of all - oats.

No spinning wheel required. In this day and age, a simple solvent will suffice to turn homely vegetation into a source of precious metals.

But if you're thinking of quitting the day job and buying an alfalfa farm, don't be too hasty. The quantities of gold at stake won't quickly cover the cost of a harvesting combine.

The yields, in fact, are microscopic. The gold appears as particles mere billionths of a meter wide.

But the duo holds that their approach - which takes advantage of plants' metal-absorbing abilities - could provide a cheap way to "mine" gold from soils, with the plants supplying the gold in forms tailor-made for use in the burgeoning field of nanotechnology.

The work represents the first time researchers have reported that living plants form these gold micro-nuggets, opening "exciting new ways to fabricate nanoparticles," according to Dr. Gardea-Torresdey, who heads the chemistry department at the University of Texas at El Paso.

He notes that current approaches to making gold nanoparticles, now used as tags for studying cellular processes in biology and coveted for use as electrical contacts in nanoelectronic circuits, are expensive and involve chemical processes that generate pollution.

The use of plants, he holds, "is both cost-effective and environmentally friendly."

**R**ESEARCHERS have known for years that plants take up metals. Plants' abilities to absorb all sorts of toxic compounds have led to their use as biological vacuum cleaners on sites tainted with pollutants ranging from arsenic, TNT, and zinc to radioactive cesium. By some estimates, phytoremediation could become a \$214 million to \$370 million business within the next three years.

Indeed, the key piece in the gold-from-alfalfa puzzle fell into place during a hazardous-waste clean-up effort outside Mexico City, according to Dr. Yacamán, a chemical engineering professor who came to Austin from Mexico two years ago. While in Mexico serving as director of the physics institute at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, Yacamán teamed up with Gardea-Torresdey to use plants to clean up the site, heavily contaminated with chromium.

When the two analyzed the plants, "the tremendous surprise was that the metal was not dispersed in the plant as we assumed, but was precipitated in the plant as clusters of nanoparticles, exactly the same ones called quantum dots in the electronics industry," Yacamán says.

What started out as a plant-based pollution clean-up project quickly turned into a nanotechnology research

project, he adds. The two scientists and their colleagues also knew that plants had been used to prospect for gold.

In the tropics, for example, researchers from Australia, Canada, and Papua New Guinea found that gold concentrations in plants could serve as effective stand-ins for direct soil samples in efforts to find new gold deposits. Plants were particularly effective where soils had been covered by dust and ash from volcanic eruptions and so couldn't be tested directly.

The question was whether easily grown crop plants could also sequester gold, and in nanoparticle form.

The team started with alfalfa, germinating seeds in an artificial, gold-rich medium. Using powerful x-ray and electron microscopes, they not only struck gold in the alfalfa shoots, but found that they formed the nanoparticles they were looking for.

Extracting the metals presents no problem, Yacamán says. In essence, "you can easily dissolve the organic material," leaving the gold intact.

Although initial experiments showed that the gold particles formed in random shapes, Yacamán says it appears that by changing the acidity of the growing medium, the shapes become more uniform.

Since it first reported its work in the American Chemical Society's Nano Letters in January, the team has worked with other metals, using plants to manufacture nanoparticles of silver, europium, palladium, and iron. "We are now ... fabricating a platinum ion that could be used for magnetic recording," Yacamán says.

For industrial-scale production, the team holds that the plants can be grown indoors in gold-enriched soils, or they can be "farmed" at abandoned gold mines.

In addition, they've tested the approach on wheat and oats, finding that oats are much more efficient at taking up gold than alfalfa.

**The use of plants 'is both cost-effective and environmentally friendly.'**

- Jorge Gardea-Torresdey

Christian Science Monitor

August 16, 2004

Mike Mitchell  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

In June of this year our family had the opportunity to do some backpacking up into Canyon Creek. [We had heard that this canyon is the “Jewel of the Alps”. Its scenery and beautiful trail certainly lived up to the name] [Although the trail starts in the wilderness area, even the drive up to the trail head is incredible and our children were amazed by the river and the surroundings.] [After returning from a great trip we learned that Master Petroleum, Inc. is proposing open pit mining in the area. [Not only would this destroy the beauty of the area] [it will also impact the water quality of the stream and threaten the salmon that use the stream. We oppose the pit mining project] and hope many others do too so that the project can be stopped and we can keep the beauty of Canyon Creek as it is and as it should be!

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

*The Judge Family*

Betsy Judge  
Randy Judge  
Carson Judge  
Krista Judge  
8476 Rocklin Way  
Redding, CA 96001

P.O. Box 394  
Miranda, CA 95553  
[Jvchristianson@HotMail.com](mailto:Jvchristianson@HotMail.com)  
707/943-9786  
August 23, 2004

Shasta-Trinity National Forest  
ATTn; Michael Mitchell  
P.O. Box #1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I am writing in regards to the Master Petroleum, Inc. proposed Open Pit Gold Mine in the Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claim adjacent to Canyon Creek in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. I visited the proposed project site in July.

I am concerned that mature forestland will be cleared and large amounts of water will be used if this project is approved. I am also concerned that this proposed project has the potential to threaten water quality, and consequently fisheries in the area downstream of the proposed project site. A B C

With mercury levels continuing to rise in salmon and other fish throughout the country, both wild and farmed, I am especially concerned about the potential for increased mercury contamination from this project. D E F

Consequently, It seems imperative to me that both elemental and methyl mercury levels in Canyon Creek be tested and monitored monthly in the 1)water, 2)sediment, and 3)biota, and if mercury levels rise significantly, that all mining activity cease until mercury levels are brought back to pre-project implementation levels. G H

Respectfully yours,



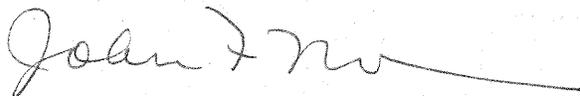
John V. Christianson

August 23, 2004

Dear Sirs:

I am very concerned about the proposed open pit mining on Canyon Creek. I would consider it to be an unmitigated disaster! I swim daily in Canyon Creek many months out of the year. Also it is my getaway during hot weather. I often spend whole days sitting in the woods near the creek. When friends visit from all over the world, I highly recommend hiking the trails in the area and camping near the creek and people are never disappointed at the beauty of Canyon Creek. This plan would ruin all that. These are just personal concerns. Of far greater importance are the various devastating effects on the environment. There must be some less wicked way for these people to make money! I pray that this will never happen. There is no one in the area who is not extremely opposed to this plan. I expect massive resistance. Please consider this plea and stop this proposal.

Sincerely,



JoAn F. Moran



THE CENTRE  
FOR CREATIVE THERAPY

Scott LaFein

Marriage & Family Therapist

MFC 33070

8/22/04

To: Mike Mitchell, Project Leader  
From: Scott La Fein  
Re: Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims

Dear Mike,

I am writing with grave concern regarding the proposed open pit mining along Canyon Creek as a part of the Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims. There are many reasons for concern from elevated mercury levels in the water to the visual blight upon such a spectacular wild land, from the destruction of the riparian zone to the extraneous destructive activities such as logging, road construction, water withdrawals, etc. These issues must be adequately addressed. A B C D E F

But I hold yet another concern that I'd like to share with you. For the last five years I've been leading groups of Trinity County youth on five day backpack trips into the Trinity Alps during the summer months. Of the fifteen, or so trips, several have been up Canyon Creek. This summer I had a group of 10 and 11 year olds up Canyon Creek. The water levels were the highest I've ever seen and made the waterfalls deeply inspiring, not only to me, but to the kids. Their comments such as, "This is the most amazing thing I've ever seen in my life!" and "Most kids would want to go to Disneyland but *this* is much better," I've been repeatedly rewarded with hearing. Kids expressed a desire to share their experience with their families to inspire them to come and enjoy the pleasures and inspirations of our pristine wilderness. G

On the way home we showed the kids the proposed mining site and the results of old mining sites. They were appalled. Some even spoke about wanting to be able to show their own children the wilderness when they grow up and become parents. They lamented the thought of the wilderness being abused with such long-lasting detrimental effects for the sake of financial profit. I was impressed by the depth of their understanding and pained by the experience of watching their sincere innocence tainted by the realization of the destruction of their inheritance...the wilderness.

We continue to make excuses and give explanations that minimize the impact of our carelessness with the natural beauty and the delicate balances that keep it so. We continue to allow money to be our guiding light, the bottom line. This is not being responsible for the system we are a *part of*...we do not own it! In fact it sustains us with far more compassion than we do it.

We must stop with the rationalities that would slowly, and not so slowly, destroy the wilderness. Personally, I would like to see the whole project rejected. But if it must go forth then there must be a thorough Environmental Impact Statement adequately addressing all the valid concerns that so many of us are raising. Consider the aquatic and H

terrestrial wildlife.] Please hold this project to the strictest of standards in order to provide [I]J  
for the well being of the natural lands with which you've been entrusted.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my thoughts.

Sincerely,



Scott La Fein

Hello.

I'm writing regarding the issue of the proposed mine, on Canyon Creek in Junction City, Or.  
I don't have a vast argument of profound points to present. I simply wish to ask you to do everything you can to stop it. It makes me sad to see the way we treat this Earth and how it <sup>has</sup> been treated in the past. The benefits that come from such devastation seem extremely temporary and ~~great~~ money based. Yet the impact on the environment is huge and takes a long time to restore, if restored at all. I pray that you ask yourself what is truly important here, a few more zeros added to an already larger than most, bank account, of the land which we live on, the animals, and the people who cherish this area, what is important? what really matters?  
I pray you ask yourself, **So please add this letter to the opposition pile.** **A**

Much respect,

Eric Ivey.

8/14/04

PAGE 1

DEAR MR. MITCHELL,

I AM WRITING THIS LETTER [OPPOSING THE PROPOSED MINING CLAIM BY MASTER PETROLEUM INC.] AFTER PERSONALLY INSPECTING BOTH SITES

[A PIT HUNDREDS OF FEET ABOVE THE CREEK ~~WAS~~ ON A ERODING CLIFF WHICH IN AN EXTREME WINTER COULD EASILY END UP IN THE CREEK ANYWAYS.]

[I'VE CAMPED AT ENDERT'S BEACH IN CRESENT CITY, WHERE IN A SHORT HIKE YOU CAN SEE HOW US HWY 1 ENDED UP SLIDING 300 FT. TO THE OCEAN, ~~WAS~~. I BELIEVE ALL LARGE SCALE PROJECTS SUCH AS THIS SHOULD BE EXAMINED IN LIGHT OF THE WORST CASE SENERIO, AND I WOULD HOPE THAT THERE WAS SOUND PROOF, THAT THESE OPEN PITS WOULD IN FACT DRAIN AWAY FROM THE CREEK, WICH IS UNNATURAL SINCE WATER FOLLOWS THE PATH OF LEAST RESISTENCE.]

[THE 2ND PIT SITE WITH ALL THE BEAUTIFUL OLD GROWTH COULD CERTAINLY EFFECT THE CREEK IN EXTREME FLOOD CONDITION. PLUS CLEARCUTTING AN AREA DIRECTLY ADJACENT TO THE CREEK WOULD LEAVE THE AREA

[E DRY + BARREN], [A BLIGHT ON THE VIEW OF ~~OUR~~ OUR TOURISTS COMING TO

[F ENJOY THE BEAUTY OF OUR AREA.]

PAGE 2

[ I PERSONALLY ENJOY SWIMMING IN CANYON CREEK DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS, AND I FEEL THAT BY THE END OF JULY A THRU AUGUST THAT 120-190,000 GALLONS OF WATER WOULD DEFINETELY MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE TEMPERATURE OF THE CREEK MAKING IT SLIMIER + MUCH LESS ENJOYABLE TO SWIM IN. ] [ MOST IMPORTANTLY I BELIEVE OUR COLD WATER IS NEEDED TO HELP THE SALMON RUN. ] [ HOPE YOU WOULD HAVE CONTACTED THE TRINITY RIVER RESTORATION ~~THE~~ PROJECT TO GET THEIR FEEDBACK ON THIS PROPOSEL. ]

I BELIEVE MAN'S BEST NATURAL RESOURCE IS CONSERVING THE ONE'S WE HAVE LEFT, I'M FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE WHICH HAS IT'S OWN UNIQUE ECO-SYSTEM THAT ALSO COULD OF BEEN STRIP-MINED, BUT THE PEOPLE PRESERVED THE LAND + PROMOTED RECREATION + TOURISM.

WE MUST SAVE WHAT'S LEFT FOR OUR CHILDREN. [ WE URBE YOU TO DO A COMPLETE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, INCLUDING AN ACTUAL

[ WATER FLOW STUDY ]

SINCERLY,

Stephen Worcester

Tamra Perez  
8331 Rockbury Way  
Antelope, CA 95843

August 19, 2004

Mike Mitchell  
Shasta Trinity National Forrest  
Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Greetings,

I'm writing to request your opposition to the proposed 23-acre open-pit gold mine in the Shasta-Trinity National Forrest.

[ It is my understanding that such a venture would be destructive to not only the existing environment and wildlife, but also endangered fish species and the general health of the California river system. ] [ A B C ]

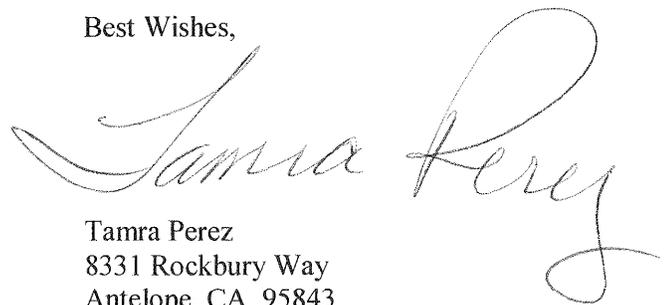
I've enclosed a copy of an article that is the source of my information.

I believe that the destructive influences far exceed any benefit that can be produced from desecrating one of our few remaining wild places in California.

[ I repeat – with urgency – my request to oppose this mining venture. ] Please help us to [ D ] protect California's wild places for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best Wishes,



Tamra Perez  
8331 Rockbury Way  
Antelope, CA 95843

August 24, 2004  
Amelia Radtke  
PO Box 367  
Junction City, Ca. 96048  
Jigmae Baer  
Chagdud Gonpa Foundation  
Junction City, Ca. 96048

Mr. Mike Mitchell  
US Forest Service  
Shasta-Trinity National Forest  
Weaverville District  
PO Box 1190  
Weaverville, Ca. 96093

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

We are writing in regards to the proposed mining operation on Canyon Creek by Master Petroleum Inc (MP, Inc.). There are several issues we do not feel have been addressed by the Forest Service or in MP Inc.'s plan of operation which are of concern to us.

**1. Impact on Canyon Creek Road.**

We have not seen anywhere in writing where this area is addressed or our local road department consulted. Both the large vehicles and the pits so close to the road and creek necessitate further evaluation. Large vehicles traveling over a one lane road with a one lane bridge ten months of the year for 25 years seems like they could have substantial impact. A resident professional logger stated they are forbidden from cutting trees anywhere near as close to a road or creek as this plan proposes. The same environmental protection standards should hold true for miners as for loggers. An official written evaluation by our road department as to the potential impact and cost of repairs needs to take place before this plan is allowed to begin. In addition, the responsibility for payment of any increase cost to the road department should be assigned in advance. Roadwork necessary due to the mining operation should not be borne by taxpayers or Trinity County. A

**2. Impact on fisheries.**

We have not seen an official written evaluation by either a fisheries biologist or a water hydrologist on the impact of removing 190,000 gallons of water a day from the

East Fork. Mr. Cullen's claim that this amount of water is a drop in the bucket could be biased information. We have lived on Canyon Creek for 15 years and are all too familiar with how low the water gets in August through October. We feel the fish population should not be threatened or jeopardized in any manner and are requesting a study performed by a qualified, unbiased hydrologist and fishery biologist. [B]

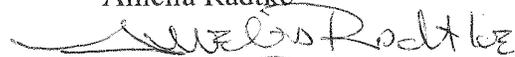
3. **Naturally occurring environmental mercury.**

We have heard from old-time miners that Canyon Creek was mined in the past as much for mercury as gold because of the naturally high mercury content in the canyon. The tremendous health risk and devastating neurological effects of mercury exposure and poisoning has been well studied and documented, with the most vulnerable population being pregnant women and children (Pediatric Annals, July 2004). Canyon Creek is a favorite recreational site with many people swimming and drinking the water. A geologist who does not have a vested interest in the project should officially study this. [C D]

[The aesthetic value of a forest is a matter of personal values and taste. Some place high values on natural beauty while others see an opportunity to conquer, control, change and profit. With the human population increasing exponentially, the value of lands left undisturbed become more rare and thus more valuable regardless of an individuals personal aesthetic values.] We are deeply concerned about the health and vitality of our watershed and feel this plan by MP, Inc. directly threatens it. Thus [we are opposed to this proposed plan] and request these issues, at minimum, are addressed before [allowing this operation to proceed.] [E F G]

Sincerely,

Amelia Radtke

  
P.O. Box 367 Junction city  
CA, 96048

Jigmae Baer

  
20 Red Hill Rd  
Junction City, CA 96048

August 24, 2004  
Dana Gray & Robert Radtke  
PO Box 367  
Junction City, Ca. 96048

Mr. Mike Mitchell  
US Forest Service  
Shasta-Trinity National Forest  
Weaverville District  
PO Box 1190  
Weaverville, Ca. 96093

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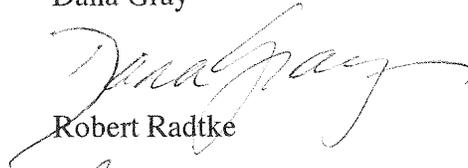
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The aesthetic value of a forest is a matter of personal values and taste. Some place high values on natural beauty while others see an opportunity to conquer, control, change and profit. With the human population increasing exponentially, the value of lands left undisturbed become more rare and thus more valuable regardless of an individuals personal aesthetic values ] We are deeply concerned about the health and vitality of our watershed and feel this plan by MP, Inc. directly threatens it. Thus, we are opposed to this proposed plan ] and request these issues, at minimum, are addressed before allowing this operation to proceed. ] E F G

Sincerely,

Dana Gray



Robert Radtke



August 17, 2004

Donna Gans  
915 Taylor Street  
Albany, CA 94706

Mike Mitchell  
Shasta-Trinity National Forest Service  
Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

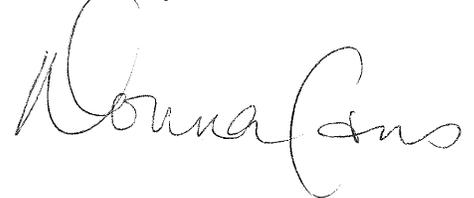
I was shocked and dismayed to read in the SF Chronicle about the proposal for a 23-acre open-pit gold mine along Canyon Creek. I used to live near this area and experienced first hand the remnants of tremendous damage done to the land from the enormous amounts of water from the gold mining process and the use of heavy equipment on the precious land. It took enormous efforts to restore the land from the many years of gold mining done in the Trinity County region during the Great Rush.

Clearly, I would like to vociferously state my opposition to this gold mining project. The reasons are numerous: the destruction of the vital and valuable forestry, the destruction of the land and the cleanliness of the Trinity River, the threat to the salmon and steelhead, the real threat of pollution seepage into the water, the irreparable impact overall on the water, land and wildlife, and the potential precedence this project may present for other rivers in the state. B C D A

I do understand the lure economically. I know the area is in dire need of jobs but I also know that there can be appropriate strategies for economic benefit that does not cause irreparable damage environmentally. For one thing, the area draws visitors and consequently money due to its natural beauty. I resent that this region has frequently had issues framed as jobs and economy in opposition to environmental protection and preservation. It's an unnecessary and frequently false dichotomy. E

Rest assured that the concern and opposition for this project transcends the borders of Trinity County. Do not rush foolishly into a project that will wreak havoc and irreparable harm for some time to come.

Sincerely,



Dear Michael Mitchell,

I am a mother and grandmother and [ it is important to me and my children that my grandchildren will still be able to enjoy this pristine creek and the trailhead to the Trinity Alps. [ I feel that this mining operation will damage Canyon Creek. [ The public uses this area extensively. [ I don't want to see a Petroleum company use this area for their economic gain. The environment is too ecologically important in its natural state and it takes too long for it to recover from mining operations. [ Canyon Creek is too fragile and too steep to accommodate such a massive mining operation. Isn't Canyon Creek a Wild and Scenic River? ] [ A [ B C [ C D

[ Please notify me of any future developments regarding the Master Petroleum mining proposal for Canyon Creek. [ Please suggest to them that they drop their plans as the local people are mounting massive opposition to their plan to destroy one of our favorite places. ] [ E

Sincerely,



Paula

P.O. Box 1001

Hayfork CA 96041

Mike Mitchell  
Weaverville Ranger District  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Dear Mike Mitchell:

[This is in response to a Decision Memo by Joyce Andersen dated July 2, 2004 regarding a mining test hole associated with the Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claim CAMC #60515. I have strong opposition to District Ranger Andersen's decision.] A

[In the Decision Memo the area in question is described as "one acre of relatively high quality spotted owl nesting/roosting habitat from an area designed to serve as habitat for late-successional and old growth related species (LSR—RC-333)." It seems in the wording quoted that this is an important decision and not one subject to categorical exclusion. Being that the whole project is in an environmentally sensitive area, removal of spotted owl habitat is to be done only under Northwest Forest Plan guidelines and with consideration of all stakeholders.] B

[I, myself, an owner of the property contiguous to the claim, did not receive the above Decision Memo from District Ranger Andersen. A Canyon Creek resident supplied me with a copy. This after specifically requesting to be notified about matters concerning the Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claim. (See attached copy of letter dated May 2, 2004, highlighted sections.)] C

I am very much concerned that unless this project is stopped, the door will be opened to all parties, some unscrupulous, wanting to strip the land of resources, patent it and then develop it for sale. This would result in great degradation of the watershed, not in keeping with the Northwest Forest Plan.

I appreciate your consideration in this matter. [Please keep me informed.] Thank you. D

Sincerely,

  
Greg Jensen

14730 Valerio St.  
Van Nuys, CA 91405  
August 18, 2004

cc: The Honorable Howard Berman  
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
The Honorable Wally Herger  
Friends of the Trinity River

Greg Jensen  
14730 Valerio St.  
Van Nuys, CA 91405

May 2, 2004

Mike Mitchell  
Weaverville Ranger District  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Dear Mike Mitchell:

This is in response to your letter of April 22, 2004 regarding the Forest Service proposal to authorize open pit mining on 22 acres in the Canyon Creek Watershed of the Trinity River Management Unit of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

On August 24, 2003 I responded to your initial notice regarding the authorizing of mineral sampling on the Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claim. See attached copy of that letter. In the letter were several concerns and questions. In the last paragraph I asked you to keep me informed of the process. The April 22, 2004 letter from Joyce Andersen is the only response I have received. As the owner of the only private property that is contiguous to the proposed mining area I expect to be better informed. E

As a result of your unresponsiveness I have the same questions and concerns today as I had on August 24, 2003. Area \*2 and Area\*4 are on both sides of Canyon Creek, they are located at the junction of Canyon Creek and Big East Fork Creek and Area\*2 overlooks both creeks for a considerable distance. Is this good for the anadromous fishery? In addition I would like now to know the planned reclamation steps and the means of financing it. Simply put: Who is paying for it? The taxpayer or the miner? Is it going to be as difficult to reclaim as the reclamation of the open pit mine just north of it in Detrick? F G

As the owner of the property contiguous to the proposed mining area I am aware of that open pit mine just north of my property; it used to be an attractive flat area with grass and some decent trees, including a very large cedar. I will be long dead before that area recovers in any sense from the mining that took place there. Now I get to look forward to seeing a 22 acre gravel pit as I drive up the East Fork Road to my place as long as I live. H

Your consideration in keeping me informed of actions and timelines regarding this proposal would be appreciated. Thank you. I

Sincerely,

  
Greg Jensen

cc: The Honorable Howard Berman  
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
The Honorable Wally Herger  
Friends of the Trinity River

Mike Mitchell  
USFS  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville CA 96093

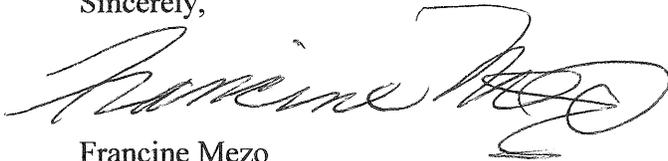
Dear Mike Mitchell:

I live in downtown Junction City on Canyon Creek Road. I first came to Trinity County in 1948, and have lived in my Junction City home for the past twenty-one years. I can't believe that we are under threat of yet another mining company tearing up the landscape and putting our water supply at risk. Most of us along the Canyon draw our water from shallow wells that tap into the water table from the creek. Any toxins created by the mining operation can directly affect our water supply. A

Water quality is certainly a primary concern, but there is the preservation of a resource that must be considered in any deliberations. Canyon Creek has *the* most visited trailhead in the County, with over 1,000 Wilderness Permits issued in 2002. By the Forest Service count, over 3,000 people passed over Canyon Creek road in 2003, the most recent count taken. I have seen traffic increase dramatically during my years here. People love this area and what it provides them, and their interest helps our economy. It is disheartening to think of the destruction that the proposed mining activity will create over the projected time period of twenty-five years. This project must be denied. It is inconceivable that the arguments in favor of such a destructive operation could supercede the health, safety, and environmental concerns of the people who live along the Creek and those who come to enjoy what Canyon Creek offers. D B C

I am vehemently opposed to this proposed mining activity. E

Sincerely,



Francine Mezo  
P.O. Drawer 248  
Junction City CA 96048

August 21, 2004

Aug 18, 2004  
Mr. Mike Mitchell  
PO Box 1190  
Weaverville, Calif. 96093

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

We were passing through Weaverville this last weekend and saw a poster with your address on it for comments about the proposed mining in Canyon Creek.

[We have been hiking and backpacking in that area for about 20+ years. It is the favorite backyard of the coastal fog escapees.] [Not only is it beautiful, safe, holy and accessible,] it is really beginning to heal from the last round of mining. You can see the signs of the vast amount of resources that were moved and disrupted. Huge mounds of dirt and rock are all over the area. [A] [B]

[This proposed ambitious project would forever change the face of a local natural treasure and completely affect the people and animals who live there in a negative way. Not to mention us who come there to get away from industry, noise, pollution to heal.] [C] [D]

To whomever is responsible for the choices made, please exert whatever resources you have at your disposal to see that this mining is blocked and never allowed again.

Thank you,



Ane Takaha, Marc Takaha, Sita Takaha (our dog)  
& the trees, rivers, birds and animals who have no  
recognized voice.

Eureka, Calif



August 21, 2004

Michael Mitchell  
Shasta-Trinity National Forest  
PO Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

RE: Letter of Concern regarding the Open Pit Mining Operation on Canyon Creek Road.

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

This letter is to express my concern regarding the proposed open pit mining on Canyon Creek Road.

There will be people verifying that each one of these issues have been addressed and would like to make sure all bases are covered before the operation begins.

1. The protection of our water source in Canyon Creek
  - a. Water Flow ] A
  - b. Fish ] B
  - c. Mercury ]
  - d. Toxins ] C
2. All native animal & plant habitat is protected. ] D
3. Road Compromise from use of heavy equipment on Canyon Creek Road ] E
4. The Beauty of this area both for locals and tourists ] F

We will never again see the raw beauty of Canyon Creek once the land is uncovered, trees are cut and land destroyed in our lifetime. What is being offered to Trinity County in exchange for this mutilation?

Sincerely,  
  
Diane Maxwell  
PO Box 237  
Junction City, CA 96048  
(resident on Canyon Creek Road)

July 30, 2004

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

My name is David Ross.

I am writing to you in regards  
to the proposed open pit mining  
by Master Petroleum just down  
river from the Canyon Creek  
Trailhead in the Trinity Wilderness.

[I am strongly opposed to such a  
plan.] <sup>A</sup> i

Why?

[I am a very frequent visitor  
to the Canyon Creek trailhead.  
I climbed Thompson's peak and  
Wedding Cake peak this July. ~~7~~

I was also there this June  
crossing hundreds of yards of  
snow to camp at El Lake.  
Have you been there? The  
upper valley below Wedding  
Cake and Thompson's Peak is  
godly. Yes, godly.

I do not want to see  
open sore mining as I come  
in and out of the wilderness.  
I'd like to remind you that  
a wilderness is defined as  
a place "untrammelled by man." B

Secondly, the trammeling that's  
already been done by mining  
down river at the trailhead in  
question has not been cleaned  
up. We were told as children

to clean up our mess before we  
start another activity, ~~it~~ were  
we not?

[Thirdly, why is our public  
treasure, the gateway to  
the largest mountain in the  
Trinity Wilderness—Thompson's  
Peak, being targeted for  
effacement just to line the  
pockets of a few rich men?]

why?

[You are responsible for protecting  
public resources.] Please do  
just that. Do not let this  
jewel be further tarnished.  
I beseech you.

Mike Mitchell, Project Leader  
USFS, Weaverville Ranger Station  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, Ca. 96093

Ronald Smith Jnr.  
P.O. Box 183  
Junction City  
Ca. 96048

Dear Sir,

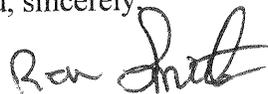
[ I would like to state that I am very opposed to the proposed Trinity Placer 1-8 mining claims up Canyon Creek.] [A]

I have lived in this county all my life and have raised three children here. [My whole family are very active in all forms of outdoor recreational pursuits, we visit the creek several times a week to swim and enjoy the country. My children go on hiking trips with their school groups. I hunt in the area and have fished in the lakes] [We are happy to see [B] lots of tourist groups enjoying the same activities and bringing money into our community] [Please do not grant the proposed project rights to destroy this pristine [C] environment. [One group of miners should not be able to destroy the pleasure of thousands of residents and visitors with scenic eyesores, tree cutting, and pollution of the air and water.] [D E F G]

[As I am an avid fisherman I am also very concerned about the recovering fish populations. This project has potential of causing many adverse effects on fish recovery, spawning grounds and riparian habitat.] [H]

[I am also concerned about the future recovery of this site if the proposal is given the go-ahead.] [Almost all residents here know what happened with the Blue Bird mine and it's [I] so called recovery, or should I say no recovery. [A posted bond should be required.] [J]

Thank you, sincerely,



YOLANDE JURZYKOWSKI

August 13, 2004

Mr. Mike Mitchell  
Shasta Trinity National Forest  
Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

I am writing to urge you to oppose the 23-acre open-pit gold mine currently being considered for the upper area of the creek in the Shasta –Trinity National Forest by Master Petroleum. Open-pit mining will cause irreversible pollution and damage not only in adjacent areas, but to the entire water table and to everyone downstream as well. Any financial gain projected for this mine cannot come close to off-setting the long-term environmental damage this project will cause nor the staggering, cumulative cost of repair. I therefore respectfully request that you do everything possible to permanently prevent this proposed mining project.

A

B C

D

Thanking you for your courtesy and consideration, I am

Sincerely,



Yolande Jurzykowski

cc: A. Rader

Mike Mitchell  
U.S.F.S.  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, Ca. 96093

Dear Mr. Mitchell

I am writing in concern of the mine that is being proposed on Canyon Creek. [I hope that it will not take place because of the run off and what it will do to the over all environment of the place.] [I feel it would be an ugly scar that may never heal.] [A] [B]

I also want to comment about the person that is proposing to do the mining. I have meet the woman who is part of the mining operation through my job I had worked at in Weaverville at Schmidbauer. I caught her in some lies about who she was. I felt like I could not trust all that she said. I feel like she should at least be checked out thoroughly before having any dealing with her. This is just my opinion.

Sincerely,  
Billie Jo Bonk  
P.O. Box 622  
Lewiston, Calif. 96052

3-9-04

It's been brought to my attention  
that a mining operation is being  
considered on a tributary to the Trinity  
river drainage. This is the height  
of Jolly. The lasting value of an  
unmolested river system is incalculable.  
The Trinity river has enough birds ] A  
Please leave off!!

Thank you  
Adam Lassiter

August 12, 2004

Dear Mike Mitchell,

I'm writing with concerns regarding the Trinity 1-8 Placer mining claim being mined by Master Petroleum Incorporated in the areas of Canyon Creek, Junction City.

When I learned this was happening I was awestruck. I could not believe that a mining operation to this degree was being considered. I grew up in Junction City and Canyon Creek is a part of my heart.

There are so many concerns of mine. [This project will impact the land is more ways than we see now.] A

[I went to the proposed area sights and saw how Master Petroleum plans to mine in riparian areas.] [Seepage will inevitably enter into the creek effecting not only drinking water for the many families that live along Canyon Creek but the amphibians, some being rare and endemic only to that region, and many other possibilities to the plants and wildlife.] B C D E G

[Along with that, the amount of water they propose is preposterous.] [Canyon Creek is one of the coldest tributaries to the Trinity River, which is crucial for salmon recovery.] [Have there been water studies to measure the flow volume in Canyon Creek? And another note, how do we know mercury won't become a problem with the seepage that could occur? Has there been a mercury level test?] H I J K L

[I hope that an environmental impact study becomes top priority. The way I see it, it is foolish not to explore all impacts to the environment before going through with such a large-scale operation. This could affect endemic flora and fauna, the amphibians, to salmon, etc.] [I do not wish to see the future of Canyon Creek full of pit-mines but rather societies consciousness to deter future destruction and realize that these projects are unnecessary compared to what we do have in the beauty of Canyon Creek.] M N O

Thank you for receiving the public comments,

Amanda Barragar

P.O. Box 202  
Truckee, CA 96160

Michael Mitchell  
Shasta Trinity National Forest  
P.O. Box 1190, Weaverville, 96093

RE: Comments On Canyon Creek

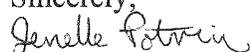
Dear Michael Mitchell,

I am very concerned with the plans for an open pit mine on Canyon Creek. [The public uses this area extensively as do the salmon and many other threatened and endangered animals and plants.] [A B C] For Master Petroleum company to use this area for economic gain is outrageous. [The environment is too ecologically important in its natural state and it takes too long for it to recover from mining operations.] [This is obvious from the recent nearby mining operations that have failed to meet restoration objectives and one can certainly look at all the tailings from mining operations started in the 1850's that still have not recovered. We depend on the Forest Service to protect our National Forests.] [D] [E]

[Canyon Creek is too fragile and too steep to accommodate such a massive mining operation.] [F] [Master Petroleum proposes to mine as close as 100 ft from Canyon Creek, which could lead to leaching of highly toxic mercury into the water.] [They plan to use as much as 190,00 gallons of water a day for up to 22 days a month for 10 months a year. I would like to know how this could be consistent with the Federal and State Wild and Scenic Rivers program, and the Aquatic conservation strategy.] [G] [H]

[The vast amounts of topsoil to be removed and trees to be cut are far more than this area can tolerate.] [I J]

[Please notify me of any future developments regarding the Master Petroleum mining proposal for Canyon Creek.] [Please suggest to them that they drop their plans as the local people are mounting massive opposition to their plan to destroy one of our favorite places. We are enlisting the help of local, regional, and national organizations to fight their proposal.] [K]

Sincerely,  
  
Jenelle Potvin

Mike Mitchell, Project Leader  
USFS, Weaverville Ranger Station  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, Ca. 96093

Charles Wehrle  
P.O. Box 119  
Junction City  
Ca. 96048.

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

[ I am against the proposed Trinity Placer 1-8 mining claims up Canyon Creek. ] [ A ]

My family are residents here in Trinity County and I was born and raised here.

[ I am active in all outdoor recreations, hiking, fishing, hunting, swimming etc. I'm very concerned about these claims impact on all of these activities ] [ This proposal would use ] [ B ]

water. In the summer months the water is low in Canyon creek and the East Fork of

Canyon Creek ] [ this project will have an impact on the water quality ] [ and scenic view of ] [ C ] [ D ]

the canyon ] [ It will cause siltation from logging ] [ This would impact the fish populations ] [ E ] [ F ] [ G ]

[ and damage riparian habitat. ] [ H ]

[ Many tourists come to this area and are impressed by the beauty. The tourists spend a lot of money here. I'm concerned that they will not be so ready to come here if this

project is approved. Our community depends on this money to survive. ] [ I ] [ J ]

[ I hope that the EIS will cover all issues and all alternatives. ] [ K ]

Sincerely



Mike Mitchell, Project Leader  
USFS Weaverville Ranger Station  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, Ca. 96093.

Tom Barnes  
P.O. Box 3142  
Weaverville  
Ca. 06093.

Dear Sir,

I am against the proposed 1-8 mining claims up Canyon Creek. A

I am a resident of Trinity County and have lived here for many years. All of my family love the outdoors and Canyon Creek is a special place for us to visit. It seems that the rest of the world does too! Many residents and tourist come for the beauty, peace and quiet, B clean air and water. Over the years our local community has grown to depend on these C D E visitors, they camp, buy food and gear and spend money here. When there is a big scenic mess up Canyon Creek this may put them off. F G

On a personal level I'm concerned about the impacts this project would have on the fish populations, the water quality and impact on riparian habitat. The project could H I J unearth dangerous metals from previous mining operations. It could also be a major K L eyesore for no guarantee of monetary gain in the end run. It may not be not cost effective M and recovery of the land is probably impossible. The Blue Bird mine is a good example of N this.

Thank you for considering my viewpoint.

Sincerely,



**MEDIATION LAW OFFICE**  
CONFLICT RESOLUTION SPECIALIST

JON LUYAAS, MEDIATOR  
Counselor at Law  
Mediation, Arbitration, Consulting

P.O. Box 3276, Chico, Ca 95927  
341 Broadway, Room 211  
(530) 343-4934 Fax 899-7634

*Mediation, the oldest form of dispute resolution,  
has become the preferred way to cooperatively resolve legal and other disagreements.*

Michael Mitchell  
Shasta Trinity National Forest  
P.O. Box 1190, Weaverville, 96093.

Re: Trinity Alps Open Pit Mine Proposal

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

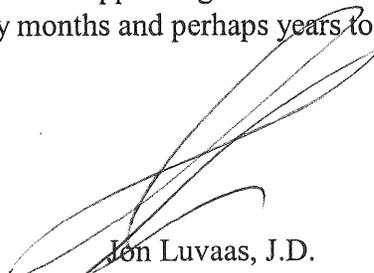
As a long-time backpacker and frequent user of this area, I'm astounded that the Forest Service would even begin to consider an application to approve an open pit mine in the Trinity Alps by a Texas petroleum company (or anyone else). This area is a rare and irreplaceable resource for all the public for all time. Mining is as destructive an activity as can be imagined in such a location. Its public benefits are relatively minimal and short-term, while its impacts are essentially permanent.

Public use and appreciation of natural areas are critical to the survival of our natural environment and to the mental health of our culture. We are rapidly becoming impoverished in ways that will have consequences long into the future and proposals such as this will add to this deep poverty of the soul and the society.

If the Forest Service is allowing itself to be corrupted and politicized to this degree by this administration, you and all staff considering this proposal should be ashamed. I urge and implore you to soundly reject this preposterous proposal. No amount of mitigation or excuses will make up for the losses which mining would cause at this location.

Rest assured that the public outrage in response to approving such an outrage would consume the greater part of the resources of your department for many months and perhaps years to come. Believe me, it's not worth it.

Sincerely,



Jon Luvaas, J.D.  
Mediator and Counselor at Law

Dear Mike Mitchell,

I recently learned that a proposal to allow a 23 acre open-pit gold mine along canyon creek. I was very surprised & saddened to hear this news.

I have considered & looked @ land there to buy for retirement.

I feel the risks of environmental damage are too great to allow this to happen - As you know Canyon creek is a very special place. A used by many for recreation. B

I am strongly against this mining proposal! C

I feel strongly that is a mistake. Thank you.

Sincerely  
Rut Now

P.S. I have read

newspaper article about this SF  
LETTER 114  
it doesn't sound good.

## Dan Efseaff

1573 Kona Drive  
Chico, California 95973  
[defseaff@riverpartners.org](mailto:defseaff@riverpartners.org)

Phone: (530) 519-6301  
Fax: (530) 894-2970  
Cell: (530) 519-6301

---

Mr. Michael Mitchell,  
Shasta Trinity National Forest  
P.O. Box 1190, Weaverville, 96093.

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I am very concerned with the plans for an open pit mine on Canyon Creek. [As a hiker, angler, and kayaker, I have enjoyed the natural resources of this area for years and am outraged about the proposal to mine in this area.] [The damage done to public land that taxpayers, future generations, and environment will have to bare is too costly to justify the greed of some out of state company.] [A]

[I know that the political climate for doing the right thing is difficult, but please do your job for the Americans that enjoy our natural resources, not just a few privileged ones.] [C]

Sincerely,



Dan Efseaff

Mike Mitchell, Project Leader  
USFS, Weaverville Ranger Station  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville Ca. 96093

Dick and Pat Mueller  
P.O. Box 27  
Junction City  
Ca. 96048

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

[ We would like to state that we do not approve of the proposed Trinity Placer 1-8 mining claims up Canyon Creek. ] [ A ]

[ We are residents of Trinity County and enjoy the unique beauty of the forest and country. We like to walk and enjoy the clean air and water. ] [ B C D E ]

[ Many tourists visit and spend money here for the benefit of the local businesses and indirectly help the schools, roads etc. This proposed mining project claims that they put a lot of money into this community. Would this projects monetary input equal the tourist dollars spent? ] [ F ]

[ We are concerned also about the restoration of this site if the project is approved ] We [ G ] have seen what happened with the Blue Bird mine up Canyon Creek and after several years it is still bare of growth.

[ This county is special for many reasons, some of which are fishing, hunting, clean air and water and many outdoor recreational activities. We feel that many of these activities will be adversely affected by this proposal ] [ It will have adverse effects on fish ] [ H I J ] populations ] [ It will effect water and air quality, riparian habitat and possibly unearth ] [ K ] dangerous metals from previous mining ] [ The scenic value of Canyon Creek will ] [ E I L M ] definitely suffer. ] [ N ]

Sincerely



MARGARET DRAPER  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
POB 176, BAYSIDE, CA 95524  
TEL: 707.826.9072 / FAX: 707.826.1341

August 11, 2004

Michael Mitchell  
Shasta Trinity National Forest  
P.O. Box 1190,  
Weaverville, CA 96093.

RE: Comments On Canyon Creek

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

[As a recreational user of the Shasta Trinity, I am appalled by the proposed open pit mine on Canyon Creek. I, and other members of the public, use this area extensively to access Trinity Alps. Salmon and many other threatened and endangered animals and plants are dependent on good resource values in the area.] [A] [B] [C]

[Mining operations of the open pit variety are unduly detrimental to the environment. The USFS does have authority and control over the surface of the land, and can set stringent standards to prevent damage to the environment. While such stringent standards may make the mining operation less economically profitable, or even viable, from the mining investor point of view, that consideration is not one that the Forest Service must pay attention to. You are free to value public resource values - and public input - over profits to any individual proponent of subsurface extraction.] [D]

[Open pit mining is disastrous for wildlife, recreational, forestry, and other multiple use values.] [This is obvious from recent nearby mining operations that have failed to meet restoration objectives. Tailings from 150-year old operations still choke local rivers in the area.] [E] [F] [G]

[Canyon Creek is far too fragile and steep to accommodate a massive mining operation.] [I] [H] [J] [K] [L] [M] [N] [O] [P] [Q] [R] [S] [T] [U] [V] [W] [X] [Y] [Z]

[There are public trust issues involved, as well as Clean Water and beneficial user considerations: should the USFS allow activities that foreseeably lead to unacceptable levels of contamination in waterways, especially given the amount of funding that has gone into fishery restoration in recent decades? Additionally, how about possible human poisonings?] [K] [L] [M] [N]

[Any environmental documents must carefully address these issues and explore alternatives to this proposal, and how such an operation can comport with various other state and federal environmental laws and regulations.] [O]

Please notify me of any future developments regarding the Master Petroleum mining proposal for Canyon Creek p

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Margaret Draper", written in black ink.

Margaret Draper

Beverly Jean Harris  
P. O. Box 707  
Big Bar, CA 96010-0707

August 11, 2004

Mr. Mike Mitchell  
Weaverville Ranger Station  
P. O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

RE: Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

As a property owner of a residence located on Canyon Creek in Trinity County, California, I feel compelled to share with you my feelings about the proposed gold mine a distance of about 5 miles up Canyon Creek Road from my residence. As I understand it, Master Petroleum is proposing to:

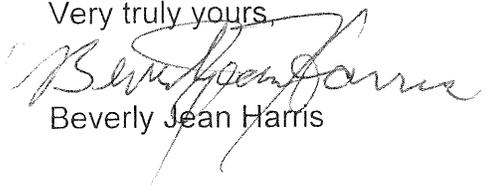
(1) Spend the next 25 years processing approximately 1 1/2 million tons of soil and gravel just above Canyon Creek. That means there will be machine generated noise, dust, and digging which landowners on Canyon Creek are expected to endure – for 25 years!

(2) Take 190,000 gallons of water per day for 3+ weeks out of each month, 10 months a year for 25 years on 22 acres. This amount of water, I presume, is in addition to what they already are taking to operate their current mine on 40 acres. I suppose those of us with property downstream from the mine who rely (in various degrees) on that water are insignificant when gold "demands" to be profitable for 5 people running a "little ol' bitty" mine upstream.

As an admirer of Canyon Creek's beauty among the many visitors who come to Trinity County specifically to visit that area, I have observed from my backyard very large steelhead and salmon spawning in considerable numbers. During the summer, I would swim in the clear waters, delighted with the fingerlings that swam around me. I am told there will be pits dug as "holding ponds" so that the water will be "clean" when it returns to Canyon Creek. Yet, how warm will the water be when released back into the creek after sitting in ponds? How will warmer water affect the salmon, steelhead, frogs, wild birds (such as kingfishers and bald eagles), plant life and other pertinent wildlife in the creek? Will it be devoid of nourishment?

At a minimum, the U.S. Forest Service has a duty to the taxpayers' investment in this "Crown Jewel" (no pun) of Trinity County to "mitigate" the mining operation down to a maximum of 3 years or less. Even 3 years seems like a risk who can foretell what permanent damage to the creek can result from the taking of so much water, land erosion from logging the trees (on the proposed mining property), and, not to mention, the tourism that Trinity County needs? A project of this magnitude is sure to have a negative effect on the environment, tourism and on surrounding landowners' investments. Please keep these concerns in mind when making your decision regarding Canyon Creek's fate.

Very truly yours,

  
Beverly Jean Harris

Mike Mitchell, Shasta Trinity National Forest  
Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Anglo, 2004

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

[I am writing to express my strong  
opposition to the proposed Gold Mine -  
open pit gold mine, on Canyon creek]. [A]

[I live in Marin county California but  
frequently travel to the Trinity Alps for  
recreation and peace of mind. There  
are few remaining wild creeks & rivers  
and Canyon creek is one such gem]. [It [B]  
would be tragic for Trinity county to  
lose such a resource]. [C]

In today's [C]  
day and age, an open pit mine - [using  
vast amounts of water], [destroying a [D]  
critical natural resource], [E] is unconscionable.

[This creek is, as you must know, a major  
gateway to the Trinity Alps] - [also a critical [F]  
salmon habitat] [and a major tourist [G]  
attraction]. [Please do all you can as a [H]  
steward of our natural resources to

oppose such a project. ]

Thank you for listening -

Sincerely,



Andrew Rader

Box 352

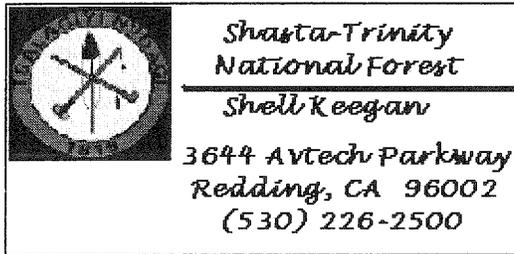
Forest Knolls, CA 94933



Shelly L Keegan  
07/27/2004 03:02 PM

To: CABret@aol.com, Mike Mitchell/R5/USDAFS@FSNOTES  
cc: glenmartin@sfchronicle.com, senator@feinstein.senate.gov,  
senator@boxer.senate.gov  
Subject: Re: Master Petroleum Open Pit Mining Proposal

Thank you for your public comment. Your comment has been forwarded to the appropriate person.



CABret@aol.com



CABret@aol.com  
07/27/2004 01:13 PM

To: slkeegan@fs.fed.us  
cc: senator@boxer.senate.gov, senator@feinstein.senate.gov,  
glenmartin@sfchronicle.com  
Subject: Master Petroleum Open Pit Mining Proposal

Please pass this on to whoever is taking public comment. I strongly oppose any open pit mining in the Canyon Creek area of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, a very bad precedent. If other such operations, now defunct, have not succeeded in restoration, whatever makes anyone think this one will? In 1872 (Mining Act) this might have made sense as everything was limitless (just ask the carrier pigeons), in the 21st Century we know better. Or do we? B

**Charles Bret.....1021 Aquarius Way, Oakland, CA 94611-1939**

The ultimate result of shielding men from the effects of folly is to fill the world with fools.  
Herbert Spencer.

DATE: August 6, 2004

TO: Mike Mitchell  
Shasta Trinity National Forest

COPY: Record Searchlight Newspaper

FROM: Colleen Ryberg  
P.O. Box 713  
Weaverville, CA 96093  
(530) 623-5458

SUBJECT: OPEN PIT MINING/CANYON CREEK

I have lived and worked in Trinity County for 25 years.

This summer I had the opportunity to go on a tour of the proposed sites up Canyon Creek for Open Pit Mining. I am appalled - is this seriously being considered?

While employed at Junction City Elementary School, I took the young children on field trips to the Blue Bird Mine on Canyon Creek. We were accompanied by a geologist from the U.S. Forest Service. A tour and talk was given on the negative effects this had on the environment. In fact, a picture is worth 1000 words, the land was RAPED and left in disrepair. Apparently, a bond was put up before the damage was done. However, no amount of \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ can bring back the serene quality or the beautiful trees ... never again in our lifetime. The children planted trees and watered them with little Dixie cups. They were told a fairy tale: "When you have children, you may bring them up here and show them the trees you planted." The trees did not grow.

I am very familiar with the East Fork of Canyon Creek. I worked for the U.S. Forest Service as a Fire Lookout and was then offered a job as a Youth Conservation Crew Leader. In the summer of 1990 we worked for approximately 6 weeks on a drainage project on the East Fork. During lunch breaks the youths would enjoy the natural beauty surrounding them, including the gorgeous waterfalls and the abundant amount of fish - they were totally amazed!

[It would be very unfortunate if **these** youths were to come back to the same area with their children and see an Open Pit Mining Operation...the area demolished and cleared of timber.]  A  B

[Please consider all options before making a decision on this proposed gold mine and weigh the POSITIVE vs. NEGATIVE very carefully.]  C

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Please contact me if you have any questions.

*Colleen Ryberg*

Copy for: Mr. Michael Mitchell  
Shasta-Trinity Nat. Forest

Attn: Lawrence Odle, Director  
North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District  
2300 Myrtle Avenue  
Eureka, CA 95501

Date: August 6, 2004

Re: Master Petroleum's mining proposal near Canyon Creek, Trinity Alps

Dear Mr. Odle,

Following are excerpts from an article from the Times-Standard regarding Master Petroleum's mining proposal near Canyon Creek, Trinity Alps. In my phone conversation with you on July 23 you stated you were not aware of the proposal and requested I submit something in writing, which I am doing now.

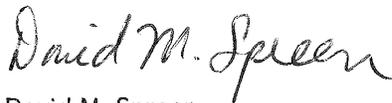
It appears that the operation lies in a region of ultramafic rock formations as identified on official CGS maps of the area. Consequently, Master Petroleum should be required to complete an application with the NCUAQMD for a permit as required by the Asbestos ATCM of 2002.

A B

Following the article below is the contact information for both Master Petroleum and Michael Mitchell of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. Note that the comment period closes August 26, so your prompt attention to the matter would be appreciated.

Please contact me at your earliest convenience to confirm your response to this matter.

Sincerely,



David M. Spreen  
PO Box 113  
Kneeland, CA 95549

Cc Michael Mitchell, Shasta-Trinity National Forest

Eureka Times-Standard story May 22, 2004: "Canyon Creek gold mining dredges up nuggets of concern" - By John Driscoll The Times-Standard

*excerpts to identify project:*

Weaverville company Master Petroleum Inc., with origins in Texas, is looking to mine on about 22 acres just outside the wilderness, and within 100 feet of Canyon Creek (feeds the Trinity River). The operation proposes to take 1.4 million tons of gravel from pits over the next five to 25 years.

The U.S. Forest Service is reviewing the proposal. It is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement, however, which will examine a range of alternatives for the project.

The operation would occur in four stages and involve significant heavy equipment. D-7 and D-8 bulldozers, excavators, front-end loaders, backhoes, sluices and pumps would be used, and two ponds would be constructed.

LETTER 122-1

Master Petroleum first submitted the plan in 1998. In 2000, the company tested the area about nine miles north of Junction City for gold.

It requires that about 25 to 65 feet of gravel must be removed from the top of the pits to reach the last 10 feet of gold-rich deposits just above the bedrock.

The Forest Service is seeking public comment on the proposal until Aug. 26, Mitchell said.

*end article excerpts*

Contact info: Mike Mitchell, Shasta Trinity National Forest, (530) 623-2121  
Cullen Thomas, Master Petroleum Inc., (530) 623-3039

Mail Comments by 8/26/2004 to:

Mike Mitchell  
Shasta Trinity National Forest  
PO Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

August 5, 2004

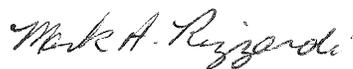
Mark A. Rizzardi  
905 California Ave.  
Arcata, CA 95521  
E-mail: mar13@humboldt.edu

Supervisory Natural Resource Officer  
c/o USFS  
PO Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Dear Mike Mitchell:

I would like to express my concern about Master Petroleum's proposed 22-acre open-pit gold mine in the Canyon Creek region. Albeit, I do not have specific scientific information available to evaluate the risks and magnitudes of potential negative impacts from such a project. I do believe the region merits great protection from possible harm. The short term consequence of not permitting Master Petroleum to proceed is likely to be minimal when weighted against the potential long term aesthetic and environmental degradations to an area valued by so many Northern Californians. B A

Sincerely,



Mark A. Rizzardi  
Associate Professor of Biostatistics  
Humboldt State University

RE: Opposed to Canyon Creek mine. A

To whom it may concern, August 1st, 2004  
I'm writing to express my opposition  
to the proposed mining operation on  
Canyon Creek, outside of Junction City, CA.  
I find it regrettable that I even need write  
this letter - that once again the greed of the  
few appears to be taking precedence ~~of~~ over  
the needs of both nature and those whom  
call the area to be mined "home." That the  
land is also public land, my, as a U.S. citizen's,  
land is that much more appalling. B

Sitting at the proposed mining sites,  
on public land, <sup>which</sup> ~~was~~ I did a couple weeks ago,  
I pondered the good vs bad balance of  
such an endeavor of greed.

Good:

For those doing the mining - money

For the residents - nothing

For the natural ~~area~~ area - nothing

Bad:

Everything else, from damage to the  
fisheries, to truck traffic, damage to the beauty  
of Canyon Creek. C D E

The small group's profit is so ~~not~~ not  
worth the damage. Why do you care that  
these people make money? Even the smallest  
risk or most minor opposition by local  
residents means it shouldn't be done.

If scrapped, the ~~miners~~ miners lose only  
potential, which means nothing. If mined  
the locals lose a lot. The choice is easy.

Protect your own. Protect our public land. →

Oppose the Canyon  
Creek gold mine  
operation.

Sincerely,  
Scott Menzies, Returned Peace Corps Volunteer  
~~Scott Menzies~~ 44-1423

P.S. I apologize for the cruddy writing. A child of the computer age, my penmanship has suffered, but I ~~still~~ feel this important enough to hand-write my letter. Thanks!

Mike Mitchell, Project Leader  
USFS, Weaverville Ranger Station  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, Ca. 96093

Mike and Linda Allan  
P.O. Box 152  
Junction City  
Ca. 96048

Dear Sir,

[ We would like to voice our strong opposition to the proposed Trinity Placer 1-8 mining claims.] [ A ]

[ Canyon Creek is a very important tributary of the Trinity River.] [ It is eligible for Wild [ B ] and Scenic status and is adjacent to the Trinity Alps Wilderness. This whole canyon is extremely popular for hiking, lake fishing , swimming, hunting and other outdoor recreation.] [ Its air and water quality are supreme ] and [ thousands of people visit yearly [ C ] [ D ] [ E ] bringing a large amount of tourist dollars to our community ] [ To sacrifice this unique [ F ] beauty for the monetary gain of a few mining individuals in appalling.] [ G ]

[ The last few years have seen improvement in anadromous fish populations. This has been due to great effort, time and money involved from various state and federal agencies.] [ This project would use water from the East Fork of Canyon Creek. It would [ H ] lessen our water resources.] [ introduce debris and soil into the drainage, possibly unearth [ I ] dangerous metals from previous mining, cause siltation, destruction of spawning grounds ] [ J ] [ K ] [ L ] [ and riparian habitat. Timber cutting from these lands would also cause erosion.] [ The [ M ] [ N ] accumulative effects would thus have negative impacts on the efforts to restore the anadromous fish populations.] [ O ] [ P ]

[ The EIS should cover a full range of alternatives including the following:

1. A no action alternative
2. A limited use alternative. 3 year maximum use.

3. A limited tonnage alternative.

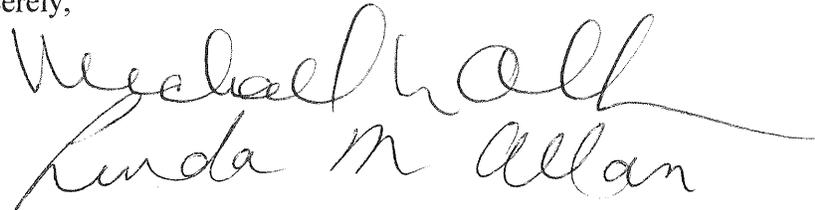
All alternatives must include:

1. Riparian boundaries consistent with the Northwest Forest Plan.
2. An economic analysis of losses to the local economy due to the proposed project.
3. An accumulative analysis of this project, recent and past projects and possible future mining projects on air and water quality. Accumulative effects on aquatic and other wildlife species including sensitive and threatened species (both animals and plants).

Future restoration of the site should be a necessary requirement and a posted bond required. ] Q

We thank you for your attention to this letter.

Sincerely,



Michael Hall  
Linda M Allan

1615 Balboa Rd.  
McKinleyville, CA 95519  
August 3, 2004

Mike Mitchell, Project Leader  
Weaverville Ranger Station  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Re: Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claim, CAMC #605515

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

[We are writing to express our opposition to the development of the Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claim, CAMC #605515]. [We have both hiked and backpacked extensively in the Trinity Alps] and have seen first hand the devastation caused by this type of mining.

[The environmental impact of such a project is potentially so great that an Environmental Impact Statement should be prepared].

[The Trinity River has been greatly degraded by water diversion jeopardizing the survival of endangered salmonids. How will further removal of water from one of the main tributaries of the Trinity River affect already low downstream flows?]

[How will water and air quality be protected and site restoration be accomplished?]

[How will Trinity Alps Wilderness access, notably Canyon Creek Lakes, be affected. As you very well know, this is the most heavily used wilderness area in Northwestern California and deserves utmost preservation].

[In summary we are appalled that anyone would consider this type of activity in an area that is so revered by thousands of people from all walks of life all over Northern California]. Thank you for considering this important matter.

  
Martin Smukler, M.D.

  
Jeri Meister, MA

MARGARET KET TUNEN ZEGART  
378 Douglas Park Drive  
Crescent City, CA 95531

July 28, 2004

United States Forest Service  
1330 Bayshore Way  
Eureka, CA 95501-3834

Trinity River  
Mike Mitchell, Natural Resource Planner

**RE: Master Petroleum Canyon Creek Mining Proposal**

Dear Mr. Mitchell and others concerned:

[Not only will the utilization of the 1872 obsolete Mining Act allow private parties – corporations to abuse / use public lands, but this concept violates the century old plus purpose designed to protect, opportunity for the individual who long ago used panning and other less land / waterway invasive mining methods and a later purpose was a small scale industry “grant” similar to homesteading and donation land claims use of lands. Unfortunately powerful groups lobby against updating this law to allow protection of public lands which are the heritage and for the use of all peoples. Congress has failed us.] A

[However, we do have Scenic and Wild River commitments into law for these rivers and wilderness protection and enjoyment] [Reduction of water flow of the tributary, Canyon Creek,] B C  
[danger of pond overflow in heavy winter rains, bench erosion deteriorating although their design is intended to face away from creek, and toxic seepage. Two creeks will be adversely affected] D E  
[and in addition to diminished fisheries] [the former riparian and forested habitat could be noisy] F  
and barren] I am familiar with restored mining areas that are terraced and unappealing and, although “restored” are not in natural canyon / creek / slope configuration associated with surrounding wilderness. [This “sound restoration” envisioned by Mr. Mitchell and operators of the proposed open pit mining follows a long period of mining activity disruption.] That period – I  
up to twenty five years? – [will be one of dust, access roads for equipment through communities

to the site and non-vegetated areas] [This will be interrupting the scenic and quiet trailhead access JK  
to the Wilderness area] [The Hupas, will be suffer destruction of traditional fishing and gathering HM  
grounds.] N

Road access and egress of ore trucks, their size, frequency and routes, variation in K  
rainfall] [operation schedules, noise, dust], heavy vehicle storage, structures, access through the O P H J  
site, [Native American rights, habitat protection of species] in [alternate methods of gold extraction N Q  
(ie, dredging)] [mine employees' housing], [visual and other impacts to the near Trinity wilderness, R S T  
its [access or any disruption of recreational trails] [an analysis of water diversion] [plans proposed M U  
and bonding requirements for phased and final restoration to be paid prior to mining operations  
[projects fail; corporations disband and the Forest Service / public are burdened with blight and  
fiscal loss after project has defaced land]. These are among issues to study within the scope of  
the NEPA and EIR review. of the Canyon Creek Mining Proposal.] V

[Owning property on the California Smith Wild and Scenic River, I am particularly  
concerned that this proposed mining abuse of public lands, by precedent. Even dredging in  
portions of the Smith wisely has been prohibited because of the high habitat and recreational  
values in the Six Rivers National Forest. Do not permit open pit gold mining on public lands!] W

[Please inform me when the environmental draft is available to review.] X

Sincerely,  
*Margaret Kettunen Zegart*  
Margaret Kettunen Zegart  
118 Highland Lane  
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Attn. Mike Mitchell  
7.30.04

Dear Sir,

I would like to express my strong opposition to the mining proposal on Canyon Creek. A  
Trinity county is poor in many ways, and faces many problems. The Canyon Creek project does absolutely nothing to alleviate any of these problems, but goes a long way towards destroying the area's primary assets; its natural beauty and pure B C water. D Please don't allow Master Petroleum, Inc. to turn one of California's few remaining treasures into another Appalachia E.

Thank you,  
Donald Tschos  
Whittier  
P.O. Box 838  
Hayfork  
628-9444

To: Michael Mitchell  
Shasta-Trinity National Forest  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

5/23/04

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I read the article in the Saturday, May 22, 2004 Eureka Times Standard yesterday. I must say, I was disturbed to hear that a mining company proposes to mine in an area adjacent to Canyon Creek near Junction City. [I backpacked into that set of lakes probably 4 or 5 times when I was in high school and college: upper and lower Canyon Creek lakes, "L" lake, the two lakes that are west of the Canyon Creek Lakes trail about half way up (Boulder Lake and Forbidden Lake I think). I've probably packed into various Trinity Alps lakes 15 or 20 times since high school. I'm 53 years old now and am not an avid outdoors person. But those trips into the mountains are some of my favorite memories, ever. My wife and I hiked into Alpine Lake and Stoddard Lakes as we got to know each other before we got married 17 years ago. I waited years for our only son to get to the age when he could carry a pack into the Alps. Four years ago, he and I went to Stoddard Lake for 4 days. He was 11 years old. Since then we've gone on one pack trip each summer and plan to go again this summer. He's 15 now, and it's one time when the phones and computers and chores can be put to rest, and he and I can share time, the sound of the wind in the trees, the occasional sound of a fish jumping in the lake, and even sliding down an early July snow bank above a North-facing lake on a piece of plastic resurrected from a Ritz cracker box, like we did 2 summers ago. He and I tried to go to Canyon Creek Lake a few summers back, but it was too crowded. There must have been 25 cars parked at the top of the road that late June of 2001 or 2002. It's a great place, Canyon Creek, because there are at least 5 lakes just in that one small drainage. I had college friends who hiked over Sawtooth ridge back in the early 70's to go onto other lakes in Stuart's fork drainage, etc. I was content to listen to the wind and the frogs and the clicking of grasshoppers in flight at Upper Canyon Creek Lake that year.

LETTER 129-1

My son and I connect up in the mountains, with each other and with nature. I would like to express my strong opposition to any mining company moving 1.4 million tons of rock near a set of lakes that is so popular that you can't even find parking at the trailhead. And it's not just Trinity and Humboldt County people who go into that set of lakes. People come from all over to hike into the Trinity Alps. [That's tourist money] [A] coming into the county, and it does not involve churning up the natural beauty to get the dollars. [This company may have every intention of restoring the area to it's natural] [B] condition when they are done; they may be absolutely certain that there won't be a 20 or 50 or 1000 gallon diesel spill while they're doing business in Trinity County; they may feel that the risk of damaging a popular backpacking area is worth the possibility of getting lots of gold out of the 2,800,000,000 pounds (1,400,000 tons X 2000 pounds/ton) of dirt and rock they will remove and hopefully replace back to the way it was. But I don't think the risk is worth what they may gain from it. [Please put me down as a citizen] [C] opposing this operation. [If it cannot be stopped because of some 100+ year old law] [D] that allows companies to do these kinds of intrusive operations, then I hope the U.S. Forest Service and the other agencies entrusted with administering and protecting what is left of America's natural beauty for people like my wife, my son and I, will require that the mining company do what it needs to do to put things back to the way they were. [E] We locals all know what a mining operation can do when it doesn't have any controls placed on it. We just need to look at the miles and miles of rock piles behind Junction City that have been there, basically unchanged and unreclaimed, for probably the last 100 years. Thanks for hearing my concerns and for anything the U.S.F.S. can do to stop this proposed mining.

Sincerely,

John Tajjala

8833 Fickle Hill Road

Arcata, CA 95521

(707) 826-1884

Mike Mitchell  
Shasta-Trinity National Forest  
Ranger Station  
POB 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

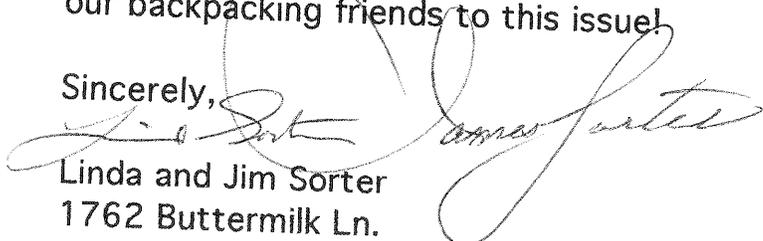
Dear Mr. Mitchell:

[We have been avid backpackers in the beautiful Trinity Alps Wilderness for 30 years. We have carried out trash left behind by other “backpackers”, educated hikers we’ve seen behaving inappropriately with bathroom and dishwashing activities in the wilderness, and done all we can to preserve the precious beauty of this much-used place in Northern California.] [A]

[We were shocked and horrified to learn that Master Petroleum Company from Texas now plans to use the east fork area of the Canyon Creek for mining purposes.] Please, please, please find some way to block this [B] encroachment on one of the loveliest, wild places still left!!! [If you absolutely cannot find ANY way to do this, again PLEASE create appropriate mitigations that will limit this project’s impacts.] [C]

We have always appreciated Forest personnel that we have met in the Trinity Alps Wilderness and their deep care and committed care-taking of this bit of earth that so many of us love and do NOT want destroyed in ANY way. We will wait anxiously to see how you can intervene in this matter. Surely if mining companies can maneuver the laws such as the 1872 (over 130 years old, out-dated!) Mining Act, the Forest Service can be clever enough and powerful enough to create some “Acts” of its own! Thank you, and please let us know how we can further help your action beside alerting all our backpacking friends to this issue!

Sincerely,



Linda and Jim Sorter  
1762 Buttermilk Ln.  
Arcata, CA 95521  
707-826-1781

Mike Mitchell  
Supervisory Natural Resources Officer  
United States Forest Service  
PO Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

May 14, 2005

Dear Mike,

I'm writing to comment on your office's *Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement* for Master Petroleum's proposal to mine four sites in the vicinity of Big East Fork and Canyon Creeks.

[Any proposal under the 1872 mining laws should be considered very carefully] [I'm particularly concerned about the Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims' possible impacts on water quality, soils, plants, wildlife and birds, and on fish populations, especially the Trinity River salmon runs] [A] [BCDE]

[Please keep me informed and mail a copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement to:] [F]

Robert H. Musgrove  
507 Meadow Ave.  
Mount Shasta CA 96067



Dana Gray & Robert Radtke  
PO BOX 367  
Junction City, Ca. 96048

May 16, 2004

Ms. Joyce Andersen  
Forest Service, Weaverville District Ranger  
Shasta-Trinity National Forest  
PO Box 1190  
Weaverville, Ca, 96093

Dear Ms. Andersen

[We are writing in regards to the plan of operation by MP INC, to mine and log in the upper Canyon Creek watershed. In reading the document prepared by MP INC. we found it incomplete and confusing. First, it discusses several exhibits to refer to: A, B, D, E and H but we only found Exhibit A in the paper. Perhaps this is an oversight but it reflects a lack of attention to detail that concerns me when someone is choosing to use large earth moving equipment in my watershed.] [A]

After sixteen years residence on Canyon Creek and all three of my children participating in Junction City School's vain effort to help restore the bluebird mining disaster, we are more than skeptical of environmental "promises", preferring legal safeguards. [Allowing a company from Texas to come in here and remove natural resources, making the land useless, with little to no benefit to our impoverished county is unwise and lacking foresight.] [B C]

[Nothing should be allowed to be destroyed before an Environmental Impact Statement is complete.] [The risks to the creek and fisheries is too [D] great to compromise.] [E F]

Sincerely,

Dana Gray RN, MSN, NP  
Robert Radtke RN



Mike Mitchell

05/10/2004 01:06 PM

To: "Kyle Haines" <kylehaines@charter.net>  
cc:  
cc: <mitchell@fs.fed.us>  
Subject: Re: Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims

Dear Mr. Haines: Thank you for your interest in the Trinity 1-8 mining plan of operation proposal. I will include your remarks into the analysis process.

Mike Mitchell  
Project Leader

"Kyle Haines" <kylehaines@charter.net>



"Kyle Haines"  
<kylehaines@charter.net>

05/06/2004 12:38 PM

To: <mitchell@fs.fed.us>  
cc:  
Subject: Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims

May 6, 2004

Mike Mitchell, Project Leader  
Weaverville Ranger Station  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

**RE: Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims**

Dear Mike,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the the Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims [ I am opposed to the project, ] and request that you consider the following: [ A

<?xml:namespace prefix = o ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />1. [ The environmental and health impacts are so destructive and significant that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should be required. ] [ B

[ 2. The EIS should include a full range of alternatives, including an alternative that limits the size of the operation to five tons, with complete restoration of the site and bioremediation of mercury and other leachates in the soil, rather than allowing further destructive mining to occur. ] [ B C

[ 3. The EIS should include an alternative that does not impact any portion of the riparian zone, and instead concentrates all mining activities away from the riparian area, as well as alternatives that do not impact visual qualities, scenery, and Wild and Scenic River values. ] [ B D E F

LETTER 133-1

4. The EIS should include an alternative that requires full remediation and that a bond be posted for all mining activities to ensure that the site is cleaned up, bioremediated, and properly restored after mining activities are completed. B G
5. The EIS should include an alternative that limits mining activities to 3 years, rather than the proposed action which would allow mining for 25 years. B
6. The EIS should include an economic analysis of the environmental costs to the fishing industry and local tourism because of the increased levels of toxic suspended sediment in Canyon Creek and the Trinity River and the ugly blight that will be created on the way to a popular wilderness trailhead. B H I J K
7. The EIS should include a full cumulative effects analysis of all past, present and future foreseeable actions within Canyon Creek and within the Trinity River system in terms of mining, roadbuilding, logging, and recreation and their impacts on beneficial uses for water quality, aquatic and terrestrial wildlife. B L M N K O P
8. The EIS should include a full health risk assessment for the project from resuspending mercury in the aquatic environment, and should fully disclose all of the health risks associated with ingesting water, fish, plant material, or in any way being exposed to elevated levels of mercury as a result of the project. B Q R S P
9. The EIS should disclose if any water withdrawals will be required from Canyon Creek as part of mining activities and the impacts these withdrawals may have on the aquatic environment and anadromous fisheries. B T U

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kyle Haines  
Klamath Forest Alliance  
Klamath Basin & Eastside Forest Protection Program  
1822 Earle Street  
Klamath Falls, OR 97601

MIKE MITCHELL, PROJECT LEADER  
BOX 1180  
WEAVERVILLE, CA. 96093

RE: TRINITY 1-8 PLACER MINING CLAIMS

DEAR MIKE,

I AM WRITING TO EXPRESS MY OPPOSITION TO THE TRINITY 1-8 PLACER MINING PROJECT. I REQUEST THAT YOU CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING: A

THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ARE SO DESTRUCTIVE AND SIGNIFICANT THAT AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT(EIS) SHOULD BE REQUIRED. THE CURRENT AND POTENTIAL FUTURE PROJECT ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE ANALYZED IN ONE NEPA DOCUMENT. B

THE EIS SHOULD INCLUDE A FULL RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES, INCLUDING THE NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE, AND COMPLETE RESTORATION (RATHER THAN LEGALLY MINIMUM TOKEN RESORATION, AND BIOREADING OF MERCURY AND OTHER LEACHATES IN THE SOIL, AS A PART OF ALL ALTERNATIVES, RATHER THAN ALLOWING FURTHER DESTRUCTIVE MINING TO CONTINUE. B C

PROJECT ACTIVITIES SHOULD NOT IMPACT ANY PORTION OF THE RIPARIAN ZONE. ALSO, GREATER STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO AVOID IMPACT TO VISUAL AND SCENIC VALUES. THE PROPOSED 40 FOOT SET BACK FROM THE ROAD IS WOEFULLY INADEQUATE— SET BACK FROM ROAD, AND CREEK, SHOULD BE AT LEAST 100 FEET. IN ADDITION TO SLOPING AND BARRIERS TO PREVENT RUN OFF. D E F G H

THE EIS SHOULD INCLUDE AN ALTERNATIVE THAT LIMITS MINING ACTIVITIES TO 3 YEARS , RATHER THAN THE PROPOSED MINING OF UP TO 25 YEARS, AND ALSO LOWERING THE SIZE OF THE OPERATION TO FIVE TONS. B

THE EIS , AND ANY OTHER PROJECT ANALYSIS, SHOULD ANALYZE THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS TO LOCAL TOURISM DUE TO THE UGLY BLIGHT PORJECTED TO LAST UP TO 25 YEARS, AND THE UGLINESS OF RESTORED AREAS FOR MANY YEARS AFTER REPLANTING. B I J

THE EIS SHOULD INCLUDE A FULL CUMULATIVE EFFECTS ANALYSIS OF ALL PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE FORESEEABLE ACTIONS WITHIN CANYON CREEK AND WITHIN THE TRINITY RIVER SYSTEM IN TERMS OF MINING, ROADBUILDING, LOGGING, AND RECREATION AND THEIR IMPACTS ON WATER QUALITY, AQUATIC, AND TERRESTIAL WILDLIFE. B K L M N O P

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION,

SINCERELY,

*John B. Atterberry*  
P.O. Box 2492  
Weaverville, CA 96093

*over →*

[My 3 children & I vacation  
& do a lot of recreational  
activities in that area &  
hate to see it marred & not  
as beautiful as it has been  
all the years we have  
frequented the area].

Johni B Atterden  
P.O. Box 2492  
Weaverville, CA  
96093

*Rec'd  
5/17/04*

Mike Mitchell, Project Leader  
Weaverville Ranger Station  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093  
(530)623-2121  
(530)623-6010 FAX

Re: Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims

Dear Mike,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims. I am opposed to the project and request that you consider the following: A

1. The environmental and health impacts are so destructive and significant that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should be required. What is the full scope of the project? The name of the project implies that there may be additional phases. We request that all project activities be analyzed in one NEPA document. B

2. The EIS should include a full range of alternatives, including the no action alternative, an alternative that considers limiting the size of the operation to five tons, and complete restoration of the site and bioremediation of mercury and other leachates in the soil as part of all alternatives, rather than allowing further destructive mining to occur. All alternative should require full remediation and that a bond be posted for all mining activities to ensure that the site is cleaned up and properly restored after mining activities are completed. B C

3. The EIS should include an alternative that does not impact any portion of the riparian zone, and instead concentrates all mining activities away from the riparian area, as well as alternatives that do not impact visual qualities, scenery, and Wild and Scenic River values. B D E F

4. The EIS should include an alternative that limits mining activities to 3 years, rather than the proposed action which would allow mining for 25 years. B

5. The EIS should include an economic analysis of the environmental costs to the fishing industry and local tourism because of the increased levels of toxic suspended sediment in Canyon Creek and the Trinity River and the ugly blight that will be created on the way to a popular wilderness trailhead. B G H I J

6. The EIS should include a full cumulative effects analysis of all past, present and future foreseeable actions within Canyon Creek and within the Trinity River system in terms of mining, road building, logging, and recreation and their impacts on water quality, aquatic and terrestrial wildlife. B K L M J N O

7. The EIS should include a full health risk assessment for the project, including impacts from resuspending mercury in the aquatic environment through soil disturbance, and should fully disclose all of the health risks associated with ingesting water, fish, plant material, or in any way being exposed to elevated levels of mercury as a result of the project. B P Q R S

8. The EIS should disclose if any water withdrawals will be required from Canyon Creek as part of mining activities, and the impacts these withdrawals may have on the aquatic environment and anadromous fisheries. B T U

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Peter Starr  
19 South G. Street  
Arcata Ca 95521

845 Sutter Street #303  
San Francisco, Ca 94109  
fon (415) 613.2212  
fax (415) 730.2346  
mamavic22@yahoo.com

# Victoria Smith

PHOTOGRAPHY

[www.VictoriaSmithPhoto.com](http://www.VictoriaSmithPhoto.com)

May 18, 2004

Mike Mitchell, Project Leader  
Weaverville Ranger Station  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Re: Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims

Dear Mike,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims. Equal value to the facts that will be listed below, I would like to give a word of sentiment about the particular area in danger of getting mined and logged. Canyon Creek is one of the main and questionably the best entrance into the Trinity Alps. I am a world traveler and it's a place I refer to as "one of the worlds best kept secrets." Its gorgeous and pristine as you must know. As a New York native, I was lucky enough, blessed and humbled, to stumble on the road and the Alps at 19 years old. Down to every nook and cranny of the canyon there is magic and perfection that continuously unravels before you, season after season. I came to discover this while living on Canyon Creek for several years. The area never ceases to be a marvel to me. It does not deserve, nor would we be showing respect to its grand and unique construction, to be mined and logged; raped and pillaged. Not in 2004, 2005, 2010, 2020, 2050 or 9871. Certainly times have changed since the 1870's and perhaps should non-visionary laws. I know that there is not much heart in law but this is a place in my heart and many others and there's something to be said for that. There are several families that have lived on the road lifelong that this will effect and they too have voiced their opposition.

I am opposed to the project and request that you consider the following:

1. The environmental and health impacts are so destructive and significant that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should be required. What is the full scope of the project? The name of the project implies that there may be additional phases. We request that all project activities be analyzed in one NEPA document.

2. The EIS should include a full range of alternatives, including the no action alternative, and complete restoration of the site and bioremediation of mercury and other leachates in the soil as part of all alternatives, rather than allowing further destructive mining to occur. All alternative should require full remediation and that a bond be posted for all mining activities to ensure that the site is cleaned up and properly restored after mining activities are completed. D E

3. The EIS should include an alternative that does not impact any portion of the riparian zone, and instead concentrates all mining activities away from the riparian area, as well as alternatives that do not impact visual qualities, scenery, and Wild and Scenic River values. D F G H

4. The EIS should include an alternative that limits mining activities to 3 years, rather than the proposed action which would allow mining for 25 years, and an alternative that considers limiting the size of the operation to five tons. D

5. The EIS should include an economic analysis of the environmental costs to the fishing industry and local tourism because of the increased levels of toxic

suspended sediment in Canyon Creek and the Trinity River and the ugly blight that will be created on the way to a popular wilderness trailhead. D I J K L

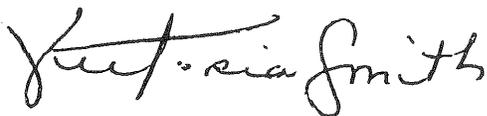
6. The EIS should include a full cumulative effects analysis of all past, present and future foreseeable actions within Canyon Creek and within the Trinity River system in terms of mining, road building, logging, and recreation and their impacts on water quality, aquatic and terrestrial wildlife. D M N O P Q R

7. The EIS should include a full health risk assessment for the project, including impacts from resuspending mercury in the aquatic environment through soil disturbance, and should fully disclose all of the health risks associated with ingesting water, fish, plant material, or in any way being exposed to elevated levels of mercury as a result of the project. D S T U V

8. The EIS should disclose if any water withdrawals will be required from Canyon Creek as part of mining activities, and the impacts these withdrawals may have on the aquatic environment and anadromous fisheries. D W X

Thank you for your consideration.

All the Best,



Victoria Smith

**David Ford**  
PO Box 527  
Lagunitas, CA 94938  
(415) 488-4604  
adedf@earthlink.net

Mike Mitchell, Project Leader

Weaverville Ranger Station

P.O. Box 1190

Weaverville, CA 96093

Re: Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

I oppose the Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims! Do not do further harm to the Trinity River! A

1. The environmental and health impacts are so destructive and significant that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should be required. What is the full scope of the project? The name of the project implies that there may be additional phases. We request that all project activities be analyzed in one NEPA document. B

2. The EIS should include a full range of alternatives, including the no action alternative, and complete restoration of the site and bioremediation of mercury and other leachates in the soil as part of all alternatives, rather than allowing further destructive mining to occur. All alternative should require full remediation and that a bond be posted for all mining activities to ensure that the site is cleaned up and properly restored after mining activities are completed. B C

3. The EIS should include an alternative that does not impact any portion of the riparian zone, and instead concentrates all mining activities away from the riparian area, as well as alternatives that do not impact visual qualities, scenery, and Wild and Scenic River values. B D E F

4. The EIS should include an alternative that limits mining activities to 3 years, rather than the proposed action which would allow mining for 25 years, and an alternative that considers limiting the size of the operation to five tons. B

5. The EIS should include an economic analysis of the environmental costs to the fishing industry and local tourism because of the increased levels of toxic suspended sediment in Canyon Creek and the Trinity River and the ugly blight that will be created on the way to a popular wilderness trailhead. B G H I J

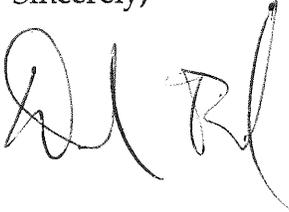
6. The EIS should include a full cumulative effects analysis of all past, present and future foreseeable actions within Canyon Creek and within the Trinity River system in terms of mining, roadbuilding, logging, and recreation and their impacts on water quality, aquatic and terrestrial wildlife. B K L M J N O

7. The EIS should include a full health risk assessment for the project, including impacts from resuspending mercury in the aquatic environment through soil disturbance, and should fully disclose all of the health risks associated with ingesting water, fish, plant material, or in any way being exposed to elevated levels of mercury as a result of the project. B P Q R S

8. The EIS should disclose if any water withdrawals will be required from Canyon Creek as part of mining activities, and the impacts these withdrawals may have on the aquatic environment and anadromous fisheries. B T U

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. R.', written in a cursive style.

Mike Mitchell, Project Leader  
Weaverville Ranger Station  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

May 16, 2004

Re: Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims [A] and request that you consider the following: [I am opposed to the project]

1. The environmental and health impacts are so destructive and significant that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should be required. What is the full scope of the project? The name of the project implies that there may be additional phases. We request that all project activities be analyzed in one NEPA document. [B]
2. The EIS should include a full range of alternatives, including the no action alternative, an alternative that considers limiting the size of the operation to five tons, and complete restoration of the site and bioremediation of mercury and other leachates in the soil as part of all alternatives, rather than allowing further destructive mining to occur. All alternatives should require full remediation and that a bond be posted for all mining activities to ensure that the site is cleaned up and properly restored after mining activities are completed. [B C]
3. The EIS should include an alternative that does not impact any portion of the riparian zone, and instead concentrates all mining activities away from the riparian area, as well as alternatives that do not impact visual qualities, scenery, and Wild and Scenic River values. [B D E F]
4. The EIS should include an alternative that limits mining activities to 3 years, rather than the proposed action which would allow mining for 25 years. [B]
5. The EIS should include an economic analysis of the environmental costs to the fishing industry and local tourism because of the increased levels of toxic suspended sediment in Canyon Creek and the Trinity River and the ugly blight that will be created on the way to a popular wilderness trailhead. [B G H I J]
6. The EIS should include a full cumulative effects analysis of all past, present and future foreseeable actions within Canyon Creek and within the Trinity River system in terms of mining, roadbuilding, logging, and recreation, and their impacts on water quality, aquatic and terrestrial wildlife. [B K L M J N O]
7. The EIS should include a full health risk assessment for the project, including impacts from resuspending mercury in the aquatic environment through soil disturbance, and should fully disclose all of the health risks associated with ingesting water, fish, plant material, or in any way being exposed to elevated levels of mercury as a result of the project. [B P Q R S]
8. The EIS should disclose if any water withdrawals will be required from Canyon Creek as part of mining activities, and the impacts these withdrawals may have on the aquatic environment and anadromous fisheries. [B T U]

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Rudy Ramp  
370A California Ave  
Arcata, CA 95521

Mike Mitchell, Project Leader

Weaverville Ranger Station  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Re: Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims

Dear Mike,

I grew up in Trinity County, attended Trinity High School, and moved to Hawaii when I was 21. Even living in a tropical paradise, I long for Trinity County and return to what I still call home as frequently as possible.

I try to stay posted on issues and I am writing to express my concern regarding the the Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims [I am opposed to the project,] and request that you [A] consider the following:

[1. The environmental and health impacts are so destructive and significant that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should be required. What is the full scope of the project? The name of the project implies that there may be additional phases. We request that all project activities be analyzed in one NEPA document.] [B]

[2. The EIS should include a full range of alternatives, including the no action alternative, and complete restoration of the site and bioremediation of mercury and other leachates in the soil as part of all alternatives, rather than allowing further destructive mining to occur. All alternative should require full remediation and that a bond be posted for all mining activities to ensure that the site is cleaned up and properly restored after mining activities are completed.] [B C]

[3. The EIS should include an alternative that does not impact any portion of the riparian zone, and instead concentrates all mining activities away from the riparian area, as well as alternatives that do not impact visual qualities, scenery, and Wild and Scenic River values.] [B D E F]

[4. The EIS should include an alternative that limits mining activities to 3 years, rather than the proposed action which would allow mining for 25 years, and an alternative that considers limiting the size of the operation to five tons.] [B]

[5. The EIS should include an economic analysis of the environmental costs to the fishing industry and local tourism because of the increased levels of toxic suspended sediment in Canyon Creek and the Trinity River and the ugly blight that will be created on the way to a popular wilderness trailhead.] [B G H I J]

[6. The EIS should include a full cumulative effects analysis of all past, present and future foreseeable actions within Canyon Creek and within the Trinity River system in terms of mining, roadbuilding, logging, and recreation and their impacts on water

quality, aquatic and terrestrial wildlife. BKLMNO

>7. The EIS should include a full health risk assessment for the project, including impacts from resuspending mercury in the aquatic environment through soil disturbance, and should fully disclose all of the health risks associated with ingesting water, fish, plant material, or in any way being exposed to elevated levels of mercury as a result of the project. BPQRS

8. The EIS should disclose if any water withdrawals will be required from Canyon Creek as part of mining activities, and the impacts these withdrawals may have on the aquatic environment and anadromous fisheries. BTU

Thank you for your consideration of what I feel is vitally important to this beautiful county.

Sincerely,



Briana King

May 14, 2004

Mike Mitchell, Project Leader  
Weaverville Ranger Station  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Re: Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims

Dear Mike,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the the Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims. I am opposed to the project, and request that you consider the following: A

1. The environmental and health impacts are so destructive and significant that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should be required. What is the full scope of the project? The name of the project implies that there may be additional phases. We request that all project activities be analyzed in one NEPA document. B
2. The EIS should include a full range of alternatives, including the no action alternative, and complete restoration of the site and bioremediation of mercury and other leachates in the soil as part of all alternatives, rather than allowing further destructive mining to occur. All alternative should require full remediation and that a bond be posted for all mining activities to ensure that the site is cleaned up and properly restored after mining activities are completed. B C
3. The EIS should include an alternative that does not impact any portion of the riparian zone, and instead concentrates all mining activities away from the riparian area, as well as alternatives that do not impact visual qualities, scenery, and Wild and Scenic River values. B D E F
4. The EIS should include an alternative that limits mining activities to 3 years, rather than the proposed action which would allow mining for 25 years, and an alternative that considers limiting the size of the operation to five tons. B
5. The EIS should include an economic analysis of the environmental costs to the fishing industry and local tourism because of the increased levels of toxic suspended sediment in Canyon Creek and the Trinity River and the ugly blight that will be created on the way to a popular wilderness trailhead. B G H I J

6. The EIS should include a full cumulative effects analysis of all past, present and future foreseeable actions within Canyon Creek and within the Trinity River system in terms of mining, roadbuilding, logging, and recreation and their impacts on water quality, aquatic and terrestrial wildlife. B K L M N O

7. The EIS should include a full health risk assessment for the project, including impacts from resuspending mercury in the aquatic environment through soil disturbance, and should fully disclose all of the health risks associated with ingesting water, fish, plant material, or in any way being exposed to elevated levels of mercury as a result of the project. B P Q R S

8. The EIS should disclose if any water withdrawals will be required from Canyon Creek as part of mining activities, and the impacts these withdrawals may have on the aquatic environment and anadromous fisheries. B T U

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Robert J Rosenberg, DDS, DScD

MAY 18, 2004

Mike Mitchell, Project Leader  
Weaverville Ranger Station  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093  
Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims

Dear Mike,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the the Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims. I have been a river guide on the Trinity River for the last five summers and have lived in Northern California for the last eight years. The Trinity River corridor, and Canyon Creek in particular, has given me a sense of openness and respect for our natural wonders. This area is a special place for many people and for future generations to come. The proposed mining project will destroy what nature has been trying to reclaim since the late 1800 mining days. I am opposed to the project, and request that you consider the following: A

1. The environmental and health impacts are so destructive and significant that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should be required. What is the full scope of the project? The name of the project implies that there may be additional phases. We request that all project activities be analyzed in one NEPA document. B

2. The EIS should include a full range of alternatives, including the no action alternative, and complete restoration of the site and bioremediation of mercury and other leachates in the soil as part of all alternatives, rather than allowing further destructive mining to occur. All alternative should require full remediation and that a bond be posted for all mining activities to ensure that the site is cleaned up and properly restored after mining activities are completed. B C

3. The EIS should include an alternative that does not impact any portion of the riparian zone, and instead concentrates all mining activities away from the riparian area, as well as alternatives that do not impact visual qualities, scenery, and Wild and Scenic River values. B D E F

4. The EIS should include an alternative that limits mining activities to 3 years, rather than the proposed action which would allow mining for 25 years, and an alternative that considers limiting the size of the operation to five tons. B

5. The EIS should include an economic analysis of the environmental costs to the fishing industry and local tourism because of the increased levels of toxic suspended sediment in Canyon Creek and the Trinity River and the ugly blight that will be created on the way to a popular wilderness trailhead. B G H I J

6. The EIS should include a full cumulative effects analysis of all past, present and future foreseeable actions within Canyon Creek and within the Trinity River system in terms of mining, roadbuilding, logging, and recreation and their impacts on water quality, aquatic and terrestrial wildlife. B K L M N O

7. The EIS should include a full health risk assessment for the project, including impacts from resuspending mercury in the aquatic environment through soil disturbance, and should

fully disclose all of the health risks associated with ingesting water, fish, plant material, or in any way being exposed to elevated levels of mercury as a result of the project. B P Q R S

8. The EIS should disclose if any water withdrawals will be required from Canyon Creek as part of mining activities, and the impacts these withdrawals may have on the aquatic environment and anadromous fisheries. B T U

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jimma Reed  
Wilderness Adventures River Guide  
108 Ski Village Rd.  
Mt. Shasta, Ca 96067

Bob Stewart

P.O. Box 22

Junction City, CA 96048

Dear Mike,

[As you know, Grasshopper  
Flat is adjacent to the proposed  
mining area, and there are  
about a dozen or so people  
living there who would be  
most effected by the mining.] A  
[I own 5 acres just west of  
the church (lot 009-460-12-00).

I am planning to build and retire on this vacant lot soon, so naturally I am concerned about 22 acres of mining going on just a stone's throw from me for possibly 5 to 25 years] also, as you [B] know, [the Canyon Creek entrance to the Wilderness is the most heavily used, so the potential effects of this mining could also impact Wilderness use.] [C]

Although [ I am concerned  
about the visual impact of removing  
all the vegetation and soil ] DEF  
and the possible [ effect on Canyon  
Creek water quality ], what G  
actually concerns me the most  
is what is usually ignored  
by planners - [ noise pollution .  
In this deep valley noise  
echos off the steep walls ,  
and the noise from chainsaws

and heavy equipment can drastically change the living experience of anyone - resident or Wilderness visitor - in this quiet upper valley. Heavy equipment pieces also usually have these piercing backup safety horns which can easily be heard many miles.

So of all the possible areas of concern, I would like to know if you are taking

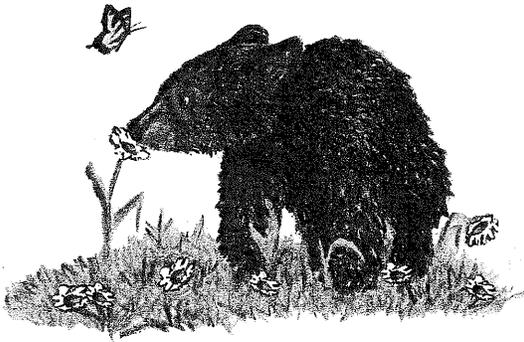
into account the wide  
ranging and usually ignored  
effects that the noise of the  
proposed mining would have  
on the residents and Wilderness  
users. ] H

Thank you very much for  
your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Bob Stewart

A note from  
Jean Doran

"Pure water is more  
precious than gold"  
That was the slogan  
of the group in  
the Okanagan near  
the border in Wn.  
who fought <sup>Washinst</sup> state



Sen Slade Gordon (re)  
and the mining  
act for years to  
prevent a cyanide  
extraction mine

The group did  
not disband after  
apparent success  
and is still fighting

[My daughter and her  
partner worked hard  
and have much info.]

A  
how  
not  
take

Kathleen Kilpatrick  
751 Vivien Watsonville

831-786-9111

95076

Mike Mitchell  
Shasta-Trinity National Forest  
Weaverville Ranger Station  
POB 1190  
Weaverville, Ca. 96093

Dear Sir:

It is with a sense of doom that the thought of more mining in the Canyon Creek drainage fills my mind. After nearly one hundred years the scars of the previous devastation are still all too visible. I have been enjoying the Canyon Creek area for the last thirty years and though I am seventy one years old, plan on hiking and camping for at least another ten. I have hiked up that trail at least fifty times in the summer months and several times snow shoed and camped in the winter. A

Pleas do everything possible to keep our streams as pristine as possible.

Thank you,



Ellsworth Hilligoss  
254 Grotzman Lane  
Arcata, Ca. 95521  
707 822 0137

Mr. Mitchell

Regarding the mining company project on Canyon Creek Road. We cannot recall a more ignorant, uncaring, contentious proposal in this area in some time. To allow these money grubbers to start this is unthinkable!

[What a travesty to allow this to occur in this VERY special area.] [Do you people have any regard for the area's environment and beauty as you profess] or are your words a joke as many assume!!

[As you no doubt can tell, we are vehemently AGAINST THIS IDEA.]

Sincerely  
The Potter family.

May 28, 2004

Dear Mike,

[We strongly object to allowing an open pit mining operation on a creek that flows out of the Trinity Alps Wilderness.] A

[Canyon Creek feeds into the Trinity River.

The Trinity is an important salmon river.

The mining operation will harm the creek + the salmon in the creek.] BC

[The mining operation will also harm the land, the trees + the animals that live there.] D

[Other problems are failure of a pit, or

a huge fuel spill. Then there is the problem of the mercury & arsenic with the mining operation,

water quality is so important

Let's not pollute the

water. [Pollution of the

EF

Trinity would also be harmful to all the

people who use the

Trinity for different

forms of outdoor

recreation.]

G

Please stop this very harmful mining operation today.

Sincerely,

*Georgette Eastland* *Bill Eastland*

Bill & Georgette Eastland



503-458-6641

apanda@pawfier.com

June 11 2001

Michael Mitchell

Shasta Trinity Natural Trust

PO Box 1190

Weaverville 96093

Re Canyon Creek.

[The Trinity River Damages doesn't  
need any more problem.] A

[Mining on Canyon Creek will  
only lower the quantity of water,  
change the habitat, and limit recovery  
of native fishes.] BC

Do what you can to stop  
Master Petroleum's request for an  
operating mine:

Key Sullivan  
1938 Poppy St.  
Shasta Post CA  
95401

6/12/04

To: Michael Mitchell

---

Are you nuts? - Are you seriously considering letting a company rape and pillage public lands based on greed? Hell, aren't we past that point in our human development? I've lived in Junction City for 14 years and everyday drive past the tailing piles left from the gold hungry money mongers. Please give it a rest.

[This proposal is an obvious abuse of our land - Don't let them destroy it - ] A

Michael McLaughlin  
P.O. Box 294  
Junction City, CA  
96048

Traffic effects, particularly on school buses or children walking to bus stops. A B

Adverse effects on public roads and bridges from heavy trucks and equipment. C

Many of the issues listed above illustrate the conflict between the mining law that would allow the gold mine and other established laws, regulations, and policies, including the Endangered Species Act, the Northwest Forest Plan, and the Clean Water Act. Furthermore, permitting the gold mine would be in direct conflict with the efforts of federal, state, and local agencies and the public to restore salmon habitat in the Trinity River and its tributaries. D EF

Thank you for your attention to these issues.

Kathryn McDonald  
824 Yuba Street  
Redding, California  
kathrynmcdonald1@mac.com

My Name: Kathryn McDonald

Address: 824 Yuba Street  
Redding, CA 96001

Submit: Submit

---

**JAMES E. COLLINS**  
**105 Lakeside Drive**  
**Corte Madera, CA 94925**  
**415.945.3292**

September 9, 2004

Mike Mitchell  
United States Forest Service  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

**Re: Stop Canyon Creek Gold Mine!**

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

While I may have missed my opportunity for "public comment," I must write to express my opposition to your agency granting a permit to Master Petroleum for their proposed strip mine on Canyon Creek. A

While the Forest Service may be looking to mining legislation passed during U.S. Grant's presidency for guidance, the creek, and the people and animals that live downstream, are living in today's cruel environment. Fish in the Trinity and Klamath rivers are dying due to dewatering and high sedimentation, which will increase due to this mine. The native people and other Trinity valley inhabitants rely on a healthy fishery. The proposed gold mine contributes to their condemnation. B C D E

The Forest Service should perform a service to the people and withhold the permit for this ludicrous gold mine. A healthy environment and local economy should be given priority over a Texas oil company's desire for lucre. F Please do your duty to your constituency. Stop this pending devastation of nature.

Very truly yours,

  
James E. Collins

PC150  
~~PC73~~

10.17.04



Lydia Garvey  
429 S 24th St.  
Clinton, OK 73601

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

I strongly urge you to -  
Do your job - Protect OUR  
Public lands - NIX Master  
Petroleum's plans to destroy  
this priceless area! You A  
work for the American  
people - not corporations -  
Keep Canyon Creek wild &  
pristine! Taxpayers are  
sick of being ripped off  
by subsidies & destruction  
pollution which we end up  
having to clean up. Stop this!

Your attention to this  
most urgent matter would  
be much appreciated by all  
future generations of all  
species.

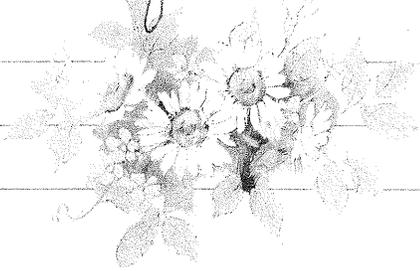
~~Thank you,~~

Mike Mitchell, Project Manager ①  
Box 1190  
Weaverville, Ca. 96093

Dear Mike -

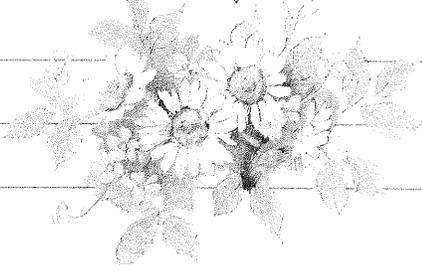
I am writing to [object to  
Trinity 1-8 Placer mining  
project] [Due to expected destruction  
of public lands in an area  
next to a popular hiking area  
& wilderness area], in an  
area that has seen a great  
deal of mining activity all down  
Canyon Creek, please consider  
the following:

[The environmental impacts are so  
destructive & significant that an  
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)  
should be required. All phases →



of the project should be analyzed in one NEPA documents. It should contain a no-action alternative + complete restoration of the site, not token restoration of the kind seen on other mining claims in the area. [C]

[More protection for the riparian zone] and to [lessen visual impacts should be included - 40ft is inadequate - it should be at least 100ft - + concentrate mining activities away from riparian areas. [Areas of Area #2 + especially Area #4 are too close to the creek + Banyan Cr Rd]. [The EIS should include an alternative that limits -> [D] [E] [F]

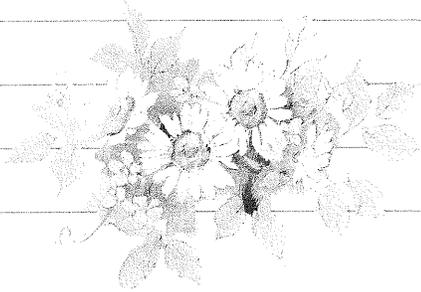


activities to 3 rather than 25 <sup>3</sup>  
years + limit the size of the  
operation to a much smaller  
scale than proposed

The EIS should include ~~an~~  
full cumulative effects  
analysis of present, future + past  
actions within Canyon Creek ] G

Thank you for your  
Consideration,

Stephen Worcester  
Box 651  
Weaverille, Ca 96093



Greg Jensen  
14730 Valerio St.  
Van Nuys, CA 91405

August 24, 2003

Larry McLean  
Weaverville Ranger District  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Dear Larry McLean:

This is in regard to the process for authorizing mineral sampling on the Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claim. As an owner of land formerly known as the Hikes Hill Placer Mine I am virtually next door to this claim. As a citizen and a neighbor I have concerns about this process and reasons for these concerns. You have allowed a very short period of time to respond. I just returned from a summer in the Trinity Mountains to find the Public Scoping Letter.

The Public Scoping Letter was not clear about the location of this football field sized pit. That is an important consideration. The Big East Fork is a critical anadromous fish spawning area, and because of this no fishing is allowed there. An open pit 40 feet deep the size of a football field cannot be beneficial to this fishery. A

In June of 1999 test pits were allowed to determine if a larger proposed project could take place. At that time there were maps showing the places the pits were to be excavated. What was the result of the mineral sampling? Are the results such that a further test pit was needed? C

What kind of monitoring process is going to safeguard the national forest? Three summers ago I was driving over the bridge at Fisher Gulch and noticed the water was red. Up creek, at the bridge just below the East Fork Road junction the water was clear. I believe that water was polluted with red earth from the same outfit that wants to dig the pit for mineral sampling. There should be a record of this in your files; it was reported. Who is going to pay for this necessary monitoring? D

Finally, I have fear and concern about the underlying motivation for this project. It has come to my attention that the individuals responsible for this claim fully intend to patent the land with the purpose of selling it for profit, and that they have done this before, elsewhere. This is a true subversion of the intent of the Mining Law of 1872. E

There is more than ample justification for denying the proposed action. Please keep me informed regarding the process of this project: I want to be able to respond in a timely manner. Thank you. F

Sincerely,



Greg Jensen

cc: The Honorable Howard Berman  
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
CalTrout/Trinity  
Friends of the Trinity River

MIKE MITCHELL, PROJECT LEADER  
BOX 1180  
WEAVERVILLE, CA. 96093

5/17/04

RE: TRINITY 1-8 PLACER MINING CLAIMS

DEAR MIKE,

I AM WRITING TO EXPRESS MY OPPOSITION TO THE TRINITY 1-8 PLACER MINING PROJECT. I REQUEST THAT YOU CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING: A

THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ARE SO DESTRUCTIVE AND SIGNIFICANT THAT AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT(EIS) SHOULD BE REQUIRED. THE CURRENT AND POTENTIAL FUTURE PROJECT ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE ANALYZED IN ONE NEPA DOCUMENT. B

THE EIS SHOULD INCLUDE A FULL RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES, INCLUDING THE NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE, AND COMPLETE RESTORATION (RATHER THAN LEGALLY MINIMUM TOKEN RESTORATION, AND BIOREADING OF MERCURY AND OTHER LEACHATES IN THE SOIL, AS A PART OF ALL ALTERNATIVES, RATHER THAN ALLOWING FURTHER DESTRUCTIVE MINING TO CONTINUE. B C

PROJECT ACTIVITIES SHOULD NOT IMPACT ANY PORTION OF THE RIPARIAN ZONE. ALSO GREATER STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO AVOID IMPACT TO VISUAL AND SCENIC VALUES. THE PROPOSED 40 FOOT SET BACK FROM THE ROAD IS WOEFULLY INADEQUATE— SET BACK FROM ROAD, AND CREEK, SHOULD BE AT LEAST 100 FEET IN ADDITION TO SLOPING AND BARRIERS TO PREVENT RUN OFF. D E F G

FISH + GAME SHOULD ALSO COMMENT ON WATER USE OF 180,000 cf daily + impact on fishery. H  
THE EIS SHOULD INCLUDE AN ALTERNATIVE THAT LIMITS MINING ACTIVITIES TO 3 YEARS, RATHER THAN THE PROPOSED MINING OF UP TO 25 YEARS, AND ALSO LOWERING THE SIZE OF THE OPERATION TO FIVE TONS. B

THE EIS, AND ANY OTHER PROJECT ANALYSIS, SHOULD ANALYZE THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS TO LOCAL TOURISM DUE TO THE UGLY BLIGHT PROJECTED TO LAST UP TO 25 YEARS, AND THE UGLINESS OF RESTORED AREAS FOR MANY YEARS AFTER REPLANTING. B I J

THE EIS SHOULD INCLUDE A FULL CUMULATIVE EFFECTS ANALYSIS OF ALL PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE FORESEEABLE ACTIONS WITHIN CANYON CREEK AND WITHIN THE TRINITY RIVER SYSTEM IN TERMS OF MINING, ROADBUILDING, LOGGING, AND RECREATION AND THEIR IMPACTS ON WATER QUALITY, AQUATIC, AND TERRESTRIAL WILDLIFE. B K L M N O

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION,

SINCERELY,

Tami Wilson

Box 651  
Weaverville, Ca. 96093

Dennis R Corp  
Box 1726  
Weaverville, CA, 96093

28 August, 2003

Joyce Andersen, District Ranger  
Re: file 2810 Trinity 1—8 Placer Mining Claims

Dear Ms Andersen:

This is with regard to your scoping letter of 7 August, 2003, proposing to authorize mineral sampling “on the Big East Fork of Canyon Creek.”

- [ For what reason would additional, and apparently much larger, sampling be necessary, when at least two “test pits” have been previously authorized? What were the results, of the previous “exploration of valuable mineral deposits”? ] A
- [ Where on the East Fork? No map accompanies the letter. ] B
- [ Upon what would the public be commenting? Virtually no usable information is conveyed to those being “scoped” which might be used as the basis for comment.
- What public is being “scoped”? How many letters were sent, and to whom?
- In the absence of sufficient information in the scoping letter, and given that the letter appears not to have been widely circulated by the Forest Service, a 23 day comment period is not sufficient. You should withdraw the letter, and start over, with more detailed information, and a substantially longer comment period.
- You should have in your possession my responses to the two previous scoping letters on this project, in 1998 and 1999. I incorporate them into this response by reference. ] C
- [ At the time two previous samplings were authorized, in 1999, the Forest Service also promised an environmental impact statement on the project. That EIS seems to have disappeared from your list of plans and projects. What is going on here? Where is it? Is this an attempt to allow mining “test” by “test”? Does this remain a proposed mining project? Or does the proponent have something else in mind? It is your responsibility to see that we have full disclosure as to the nature of the proponent’s plans for these claims on public land. ] D
- Can the Forest Service display compliance with its own requirements in this tier one key watershed?
- [ Is your watershed analysis complete for this watershed, and has it been updated to account for the events you propose to authorize? ] E
- [ What are the mitigations? How does the Forest Service intend to assure that the area affected by any operations is left undegraded, or improved? Certainly you would not care to use the results of previous high bench placer operations in the drainage as examples ] [ What of cumulative effects, over time, of this and possible future operations? ] F
- [ Can the Forest Service display biological opinions from other concerned agencies? ] H

Thank you for your attention. [ I will be interested to receive a response. ] I

Dennis R. Corp

✓ 6.14.04

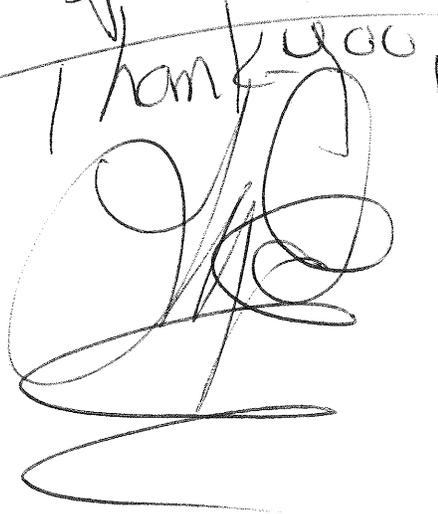
Ms. Lydia Garvey  
429 S 24th St.  
Clint, OK 73601

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

I strongly urge you to WIX  
plans for gold stripmining  
in Canyon Creek (trail head to  
Trinity Alps Wilderness) Trinity  
River (chinook salmon)! How  
stupid when \$ millions is  
being spent to restore the  
River! Do your job!

Protect our public National  
forest!

Your attention to this  
most urgent matter would  
be much appreciated  
by all future generations  
of all species.

Thank you,  




# BIGFOOT RAFTING COMPANY

P.O. Box 729 • Willow Creek, CA 95573 • (800)722-2223  
www.bigfootrafting.com • fun@bigfootrafting.com • fax (530)629-1157

May 18, 2004

Mike Mitchell, Project Leader  
Weaverville Ranger Station  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Re: Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims

Dear Mike,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the Trinity 1-8 Placer Mining Claims. I am opposed to the project, and request that you consider the following: A

1. The environmental and health impacts are so destructive and significant that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should be required. What is the full scope of the project? The name of the project implies that there may be additional phases. We request that all project activities be analyzed in one NEPA document. B
2. The EIS should include a full range of alternatives, including the no action alternative, and complete restoration of the site and bioremediation of mercury and other leachates in the soil as part of all alternatives, rather than allowing further destructive mining to occur. All alternative should require full remediation and that a bond be posted for all mining activities to ensure that the site is cleaned up and properly restored after mining activities are completed. B C
3. The EIS should include an alternative that does not impact any portion of the riparian zone, and instead concentrates all mining activities away from the riparian area, as well as alternatives that do not impact visual qualities, scenery, and Wild and Scenic River values. B D E F
4. The EIS should include an alternative that limits mining activities to 3 years, rather than the proposed action which would allow mining for 25 years, and an alternative that considers limiting the size of the operation to five tons. B

Mike Mitchell  
May 18, 2004  
Page 2

5. The EIS should include an economic analysis of the environmental costs to the fishing industry and local tourism because of the increased levels of toxic suspended sediment in Canyon Creek and the Trinity River and the ugly blight that will be created on the way to a popular wilderness trailhead. B G H I J

6. The EIS should include a full cumulative effects analysis of all past, present and future foreseeable actions within Canyon Creek and within the Trinity River system in terms of mining, road building, logging, and recreation and their impacts on water quality, aquatic and terrestrial wildlife. B K L M O

7. The EIS should include a full health risk assessment for the project, including impacts from resuspending mercury in the aquatic environment through soil disturbance, and should fully disclose all of the health risks associated with ingesting water, fish, plant material, or in any way being exposed to elevated levels of mercury as a result of the project. B P Q R S

8. The EIS should disclose if any water withdrawals will be required from Canyon Creek as part of mining activities, and the impacts these withdrawals may have on the aquatic environment and anadromous fisheries. B T U

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Londa Rowley

# **Tributary Whitewater Tours LLC**

20480 Woodbury Drive  
Grass Valley, CA 95949  
Email: rafting@whitewatertours.com

Phone: (530) 346-6812  
Fax: (530) 346-6499

Aug 11th, 2004

Michael Mitchell,  
Shasta Trinity National Forest  
P.O. Box 1190, Weaverville, 96093.

RE: Comments On Canyon Creek

Dear Sir,

We are very concerned with the plans for an open pit mine on Canyon Creek. [T]he public uses this area extensively as do the salmon and many other threatened and endangered animals and plants. [E] For Master Petroleum Company to use this area for economic gain is [A B C] outrageous. The environment is too ecologically important in its natural state and it takes too long for it to recover from mining operations. This is obvious from the recent nearby mining operations that have failed to meet restoration objectives and one can certainly look at all the tailings from mining operations started in the 1850's that still have not recovered. We depend on the Forest Service to protect our National Forests. [D]

[C]anyon Creek is too fragile and too steep to accommodate such a massive mining operation. [M]aster Petroleum proposes to mine as close as 100 ft from [E] Canyon Creek, which could lead to leaching of highly toxic mercury into the water. [T]hey plan to use as much as 190,000 gallons of water a day for up to [F G H] 22 days a month for 10 months a year. I would like to know how this could be consistent with the Federal and State Wild and Scenic Rivers program, and the Aquatic conservation strategy. [I]

[T]he vast amounts of topsoil to be removed and trees to be cut are far more than this area can tolerate. [J K]

[P]lease notify me of any future developments regarding the Master Petroleum mining proposal for Canyon Creek [A] and also make them aware of the fact that there will be [L] massive opposition to their plan to destroy such an area.

Sincerely,



Daniel J. Buckley III  
Owner

## Appendix D - Summary of Individual Letters

| PC# | Last Name           | First Name   | Comment Date | Purpose & Need of Project | Project Description & Alternatives | Land Use | Geology, Fluvial Water Resources | Water Quality | Fishery Resources | Vegetation, Wildlife, & Wetlands | Recreation | Socioeconomics, Population, & Housing | Tribal Trust | Cultural Resources | Air Quality | Environmental Justice | Hazardous Materials | Noise | Public Services, Utilities & Energy | Visual/Aesthetics | Transportation & Traffic | Cumulative Impacts | Scoping | Other Comments | Oppose Project | Mailing List |
|-----|---------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|---------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1   | Garson              | Adam         | 11/3/04      |                           |                                    |          |                                  |               |                   | B                                |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         | A              | C              |              |
| 2   | Plank               | Myfanwy      | 12/13/04     |                           |                                    |          |                                  |               | F                 | C                                |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       | B                                   |                   |                          |                    |         | D, E, G        | A              | H            |
| 3   | Pennington          | Gena         | 12/21/04     |                           | E                                  |          | F                                |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   | H                        | C                  |         | A, B, D, G, I  |                | J            |
| 4   | Rhinehart           | Lillian      | 11/26/04     |                           |                                    | G        |                                  |               | H                 | C                                |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       | B                                   |                   |                          |                    |         | A, E, G        | I              | J            |
| 5   | Pendergast          | Jeanne       | 9/29/04      |                           | F                                  |          |                                  | D             | C                 |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       | E                                   |                   |                          |                    |         | A, B, H        |                | G            |
| 6   | Berrien             | Gay          | 11/18/04     |                           |                                    |          | J                                |               | E, K              | G                                | A          |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    | B, H    | C, D, F, I, L  |                |              |
| 7   | McLaughlin & others | Kim          | 8/26/04      |                           | A                                  |          | B                                |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         |                |                |              |
| 8   | Krumbholz & Schmidt | Robin & John | 8/26/04      |                           | B                                  | A, C     | D, H, P                          | N, Q          | E, O              | I, R, T                          | G, M       | U                                     |              |                    |             | W                     | S                   |       | J, L                                | K, V              |                          |                    |         | F              |                |              |
| 9   | Werbel              | Ashley       | 7/18/04      |                           |                                    |          |                                  | D             |                   | E                                | A, F       | G                                     |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       | B                                   |                   |                          |                    |         | C, H           | I              |              |
| 10  | Wozmake             | Kay          | 8/19/04      |                           |                                    |          |                                  |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         | A              |                |              |
| 11  | Givins              | P.           | 8/19/04      |                           |                                    |          |                                  |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         | A              | B              |              |
| 12  | Coll                | Lewis        | 8/19/04      |                           |                                    |          |                                  |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         |                | A              |              |
| 13  | Knight              | Kathryn      | 8/19/04      |                           |                                    |          |                                  |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         |                | A              |              |
| 14  | Wheeler             | Jesse        | 8/19/04      |                           |                                    |          |                                  |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       | B                                   |                   |                          |                    |         | A              |                |              |
| 15  | Ferguson            | Karl         | 8/19/04      |                           |                                    |          |                                  |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       | A                                   |                   |                          |                    |         |                |                |              |
| 16  | Brazill             | Nelsen       | 8/19/04      |                           |                                    |          |                                  |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         | A              |                |              |
| 17  | Eason               | Pamala       | 8/19/04      |                           |                                    |          |                                  |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         | B              | A              |              |
| 18  | Wes                 | Steven       | 8/19/04      |                           |                                    |          |                                  |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         | A              |                |              |
| 19  | Ferguson            | Danielle     | 8/19/04      |                           |                                    |          |                                  | B             |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         | A              |                |              |

## Appendix D - Summary of Individual Letters

| PC# | Last Name         | First Name      | Comment Date | Purpose & Need of Project | Project Description & Alternatives | Land Use | Geology, Fluvial | Water Resources | Water Quality | Fishery Resources | Vegetation, Wildlife, & Wetlands | Recreation | Socioeconomics, Population, & Housing | Tribal Trust | Cultural Resources | Air Quality | Environmental Justice | Hazardous Materials | Noise | Public Services, Utilities & Energy | Visual/Aesthetics | Transportation & Traffic | Cumulative Impacts | Scoping | Other Comments | Oppose Project | Mailing List |
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| 20  | Gaskell           | Russel          | 8/19/04      |                           |                                    |          |                  |                 |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         | A              |                |              |
| 21  | Brazill           | Erin            | 8/19/04      |                           |                                    |          |                  |                 |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         | A              |                |              |
| 22  | Olson             | Morgan          | 8/24/04      |                           |                                    |          |                  | C, E            | D             |                   | F                                |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       | B                   |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         |                | A              |              |
| 23  | Curran            | Caitlin         | N/A          |                           | I                                  |          | A                |                 | E             | F                 | G, L                             |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       | H                                   |                   |                          |                    |         | B, C, J, K     |                |              |
| 24  | Connor            | Casey           | N/A          |                           |                                    |          | B                |                 |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         | A              |                |              |
| 25  | Smith             | Geoffrey        | 7/?/04       |                           |                                    | B        | C                | D               |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             | E                     |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         |                | A              |              |
| 26  | Leffler           | Matthew & Chris | 8/?/04       |                           | C                                  |          |                  |                 |               | D                 | A                                |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         | B              |                |              |
| 27  | Valdes-Cruz       | Lilliam         | 10/1/04      |                           |                                    |          |                  | C               |               | B                 |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       | D                   |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         |                | A              |              |
| 28  | Drake & Velasquez | Wendy & Rich    | 8/20/04      |                           |                                    |          | B                |                 |               | D                 | F                                | G          |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       | A                                   | C                 |                          |                    |         | E              |                |              |
| 29  | Brindle           | Steve           | 9/25/04      |                           | F                                  |          | G, Q             | I               | D, H          | B                 | A, C, E, S                       | N, T       |                                       |              |                    |             | J                     |                     |       | R                                   | O                 |                          |                    |         | K              | L, M, P        |              |
| 30  | O'Brien           | Meighan         | 9/25/04      |                           |                                    | J        | F                | C               | D, G          | E                 |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         | B              | A              |              |
| 31  | Raleigh           | Daniel          | 9/25/04      |                           | G, N                               |          |                  | C, E            | D, F          |                   | H, I, L                          |            |                                       |              | K                  |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   | J                        |                    | A       | M              | B              | O            |
| 32  | Kull              | Wendy           | 9/26/04      |                           |                                    |          |                  |                 |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         |                |                |              |
| 33  | Christianson      | Steve           | 9/25/04      |                           |                                    |          | C, E             | F, K            | J             | H                 | G                                | D, I       | L                                     |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         | A, B           |                | M            |
| 34  | Alten             | Patron          | 6/27/04      |                           |                                    |          |                  | C               |               | D                 |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       | B                                   |                   |                          |                    |         |                | A              |              |
| 35  | Rhodes            | Andrew          | 7/6/04       |                           |                                    |          | C, G             | F               | E, H          | D, O              | B, J, N                          |            | K, M                                  |              |                    |             | L                     |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         | P              | A              |              |
| 36  | Buckner           | Laura           | 7/8/04       |                           |                                    |          |                  |                 |               |                   |                                  | B          |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         |                | A              |              |
| 37  | McCutchan         | Ryan            | 8/27/04      |                           |                                    |          |                  |                 | D             | A                 |                                  | B          |                                       |              |                    |             | C                     |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         | E              |                |              |
| 38  | Robinson          | Deborah         | 8/23/04      |                           | N, T                               |          | F, Q             | M, P, W         | H, K, X       | C, G              | I, U                             | B, Y       |                                       | E            |                    | D, J, L, O  |                       |                     | V     | R                                   |                   |                          |                    |         | S              | A              |              |



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| 58  | Collins     | James          | 10/13/04     |                           |                                    |          |                  |                 | B             |                   |                                  | D          | C                                     |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         | A              |                |              |
| 59  | Picard      | Charles & Cleo | 5/11/04      |                           |                                    |          |                  |                 |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         | A              |                |              |
| 60  | Schimps     | Erich          | 8/26/04      |                           |                                    |          |                  |                 | C             |                   | A                                |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       | B                                   |                   |                          |                    |         |                |                |              |
| 61  | Gilchurst   | Neil & Esther  | 8/19/04      |                           |                                    |          |                  |                 |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         | A              |                |              |
| 62  | Kirkpatrick | William        | 8/6/04       |                           |                                    | B        |                  | D               |               | C                 |                                  | A          |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         |                | E              |              |
| 63  | Buono       | Marlene        | 7/29/04      |                           |                                    |          |                  |                 |               |                   | A                                |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         |                |                |              |
| 64  | Brown       | Josh           | 7/28/04      |                           |                                    | B        | E                | F               | D,G           | C                 | I                                | J          |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       | H                                   |                   |                          |                    |         | A              |                |              |
| 65  | Krause      | Juliana        | 7/26/04      | F                         | C, K                               | E        | O                | I               | D, L          | A, G, J, M, Q     | P                                |            |                                       |              |                    | N           |                       |                     |       | H                                   |                   |                          |                    |         | B              |                |              |
| 66  | Wheeler     | Marcia         | 7/28/04      |                           |                                    |          | D                | E               |               | A, F              |                                  | B          |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       | C                                   |                   |                          |                    |         |                | G              |              |
| 67  | Castellano  | Peter          | 7/26/04      |                           |                                    | C, E, M  | G                | I, L            |               | B, K              | F, J, N                          | A          |                                       |              |                    | H           |                       |                     |       | D                                   |                   |                          |                    |         |                |                |              |
| 68  | Walker      | Nicola         | 7/26/04      |                           |                                    |          |                  | B               | E             | D                 | C                                |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         | A              |                |              |
| 69  | Peppin      | William        | 7/26/04      |                           |                                    | K        | F                | D               | I             | A, H              | E, G, J                          |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       | B                                   |                   |                          |                    |         |                |                |              |
| 70  | Lyon        | Jay            | 7/25/04      |                           |                                    |          |                  |                 | A             |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         |                |                |              |
| 71  | Johnson     | Jennifer       | 7/22/04      |                           |                                    | C        |                  | E               | D             | B                 | A                                |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       | F                                   |                   |                          |                    |         |                |                |              |
| 72  | Felciano    | Celeste        | 11/8/04      |                           | C                                  |          |                  |                 |               |                   | B                                |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       | A                                   |                   |                          |                    |         |                | D              |              |
| 73  | Tuttle      | Will           | 10/25/04     |                           |                                    |          |                  |                 |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         |                | A              |              |
| 74  | Schueler    | Peggy          | 6/17/04      |                           |                                    |          |                  |                 |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         | A              | B              |              |
| 75  | Curran      | Michael        | 8/26/04      | A, G                      |                                    |          | C                |                 |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     | D                 |                          |                    | B, E, F |                |                |              |
| 76  | Curran      | Megan & James  | 8/18/04      | G                         |                                    |          |                  | F               | C             | B                 |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       | D                                   |                   |                          |                    | E       | A              |                |              |





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| 115 | Efseaff           | Dan           | 8/17/04      |                           |                                    | B        |                  |                 |               |                   | A                                |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         | C              |                |              |
| 116 | Meullers          | Dick & Pat    | 8/13/04      |                           | G                                  |          | E, J             |                 | K             | L                 | C, H                             | F          |                                       | D, I         |                    | M           |                       |                     |       | B, N                                |                   |                          |                    |         |                | A              |              |
| 117 | Draper            | Margaret      | 8/13/04      |                           | O                                  | D        | H                |                 | I, L          | B, M              | C, E                             | A, F       | K                                     |              |                    |             | J, N                  |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         | G              | P              |              |
| 118 | Harris            | Beverly Jean  | 8/13/04      |                           | A, L                               |          | E, M             | I, N            | G, J          | K                 | H                                | D, O       |                                       | C            |                    |             | B                     |                     |       | F                                   |                   |                          |                    |         |                |                |              |
| 119 | Rader             | Andrew        | 8/13/04      |                           |                                    | E        | D                |                 | G             |                   | B, F                             | C, H       |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         | I              | A              |              |
| 120 | Bret              | Charles       | 7/27/04      |                           |                                    |          |                  |                 |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         | B              | A              |              |
| 121 | Ryberg            | Colleen       | 8/10/04      |                           | C                                  | A        |                  |                 |               | B                 |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         |                |                |              |
| 122 | David             | Spreen        | 8/9/04       |                           | C                                  |          | A                |                 |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             | B                     |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         |                |                |              |
| 123 | Rizzard           | Mark          | 8/9/04       |                           |                                    | A        |                  |                 |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       | B                                   |                   |                          |                    |         |                |                |              |
| 124 | Menzies           | Scott         | 8/3/05       |                           |                                    | B        |                  |                 | C             |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       | E                                   | D                 |                          |                    |         |                | A              |              |
| 125 | Allan             | Mike & Linda  | 8/9/04       |                           | Q                                  |          | N                | B, I            | D, J          | H, L, P           | M                                | C          | F                                     |              | E                  |             | K                     |                     |       | G                                   |                   | O                        |                    |         |                | A              |              |
| 126 | Smukler & Meister | Martin & Jeri | 8/5/04       |                           | C, F                               |          | D                | E               |               |                   | B, G                             |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         | H              | A              |              |
| 127 | Kettunen Zegart   | Margaret      | 7/28/04      |                           | I, P, R, V                         | W        | E                | C, O, U         | D             | F                 | G, Q                             | B, M       | L, S                                  | N            | J                  |             | H                     |                     |       | T                                   | K                 |                          |                    |         | A              | X              |              |
| 128 | Tschogl           | Donald        | 8/2/04       |                           |                                    | E        | D                |                 |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       | C                                   |                   |                          |                    |         |                | A              |              |
| 129 | Tajjala           | John          | 5/25/04      |                           | C                                  |          |                  |                 |               |                   |                                  | A          | B                                     |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         | E              | D              |              |
| 130 | Sorter            | Linda & Jim   | 6/4/04       |                           | C                                  | B        |                  |                 |               |                   |                                  | A          |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         |                |                |              |
| 131 | Musgrove          | Robert        | 5/19/04      |                           | A                                  |          | C                |                 | B             | E                 | D                                |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         |                |                | F            |
| 132 | Radtke            | Robert        | 5/16/04      |                           | D                                  | B        |                  |                 | E             | F                 |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             | C                     |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         | A              |                |              |
| 133 | Haines            | Kyle          | 5/6/04       |                           | B                                  |          |                  | T               | I, O, R       | P                 | D, N                             | F, K       | H, S                                  |              |                    |             | C, Q                  |                     |       | E, J                                | M                 | L                        |                    |         | G              | A              |              |

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| 134 | Atterberry     | Johni            | N/A          |                           | B                                  |          |                  | I, O            | P, U          | D, N              | F, K, Q                          | H          |                                       |              |                    |             | C, Q                  |                     |       | E, J                                | M                 | L                        |                    | G       | A              |                |              |
| 135 | Starr          | Peter            | 5/17/04      |                           | B                                  |          | T                | H, N, Q         | O, S, U       | D, M              | F, J                             | G, R       |                                       |              |                    |             | C, P                  |                     |       | E, I                                | L                 | K                        |                    |         |                | A              |              |
| 136 | Smith          | Victoria         | 5/18/04      |                           | D                                  |          | W                | J, Q, T         | R, V, X       | F, O              | A, H, L, P                       | B, I, U    |                                       |              |                    |             | E, S                  |                     |       | G, K                                | N                 | M                        |                    |         |                | C              |              |
| 137 | Ford           | David            | 5/19/04      |                           | B                                  |          | T                | H, N, Q         | O, S, U       | D, M              | F, J                             | G, R       |                                       |              |                    |             | C, P                  |                     |       | E, I                                | L                 | K                        |                    |         |                | A              |              |
| 138 | Ramp           | Rudy             | 5/16/04      |                           | B                                  |          | T                | H, N, Q         | O, S, U       | D, M              | F, J                             | G, R       |                                       |              |                    |             | C, P                  |                     |       | E, I                                | L                 | K                        |                    |         |                | A              |              |
| 139 | King           | Brian            | 5/21/04      |                           | B                                  |          | T                | H, N, Q         | O, S, U       | D, M              | F, J                             | G, R       |                                       |              |                    |             | C, P                  |                     |       | E, I                                | L                 | K                        |                    |         |                | A              |              |
| 140 | Rosenberg      | Robert           | 5/14/04      |                           | B                                  |          | T                | H, N, Q         | O, S, U       | D, M              | F, J                             | G, R       |                                       |              |                    |             | C, P                  |                     |       | E, I                                | L                 | K                        |                    |         |                | A              |              |
| 141 | Reed           | Jima             | 5/18/04      |                           | B                                  |          | T                | H, N, Q         | O, S, U       | D, M              | F, J                             | G, R       |                                       |              |                    |             | C, P                  |                     |       | E, I                                | L                 | K                        |                    |         |                | A              |              |
| 142 | Stewart        | Bob              | 5/7/04       |                           |                                    | F        |                  | G               |               | E                 | C                                | A          |                                       |              |                    |             |                       | H                   |       | D                                   |                   |                          |                    |         |                |                |              |
| 143 | Doran & others | Jean             | 6/1/04       |                           |                                    |          |                  |                 |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    | A       |                |                |              |
| 144 | Hillgoss       | Ellsworth        | 7/7/04       |                           |                                    |          |                  |                 |               |                   | A                                |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         |                |                |              |
| 145 | Potter Family  | N/A              | 6/10/04      |                           | A                                  |          |                  |                 |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       | B                                   |                   |                          |                    |         |                | C              |              |
| 146 | Eastland       | Bill & Georgette | 6/2/04       |                           |                                    |          | B                | F               | C             | D                 | G                                |            |                                       |              |                    |             | E                     |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         |                | A              |              |
| 147 | Sullun         | Kay              | 6/16/04      |                           |                                    |          | A                | B               | C             |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         |                |                |              |
| 148 | McLaughlin     | Michael          | 6/15/04      |                           | A                                  |          |                  |                 |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         |                |                |              |
| 149 | McDonald       | Kathryn          | N/A          |                           |                                    |          | F                |                 | E             |                   |                                  | B          |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     | A, C              |                          |                    | D       |                |                |              |
| 150 | Collins        | James            | 10/16/04     |                           |                                    |          |                  | D               | C             |                   |                                  |            | E                                     |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    | B, F    | A              |                |              |
| 151 | Garvey         | Lydia            | 10/22/04     |                           | A                                  |          |                  |                 |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |                    |         |                |                |              |
| 152 | Worcester      | Stephen          | 8/24/04      |                           | C, F, G                            |          |                  |                 |               | D                 | B                                |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       | E                                   |                   |                          |                    |         |                | A              |              |

## Appendix D - Summary of Individual Letters

| PC#                     | Last Name                   | First Name | Comment Date | Purpose & Need of Project | Project Description & Alternatives | Land Use  | Geology, Fluvial Morphology, & Soils | Water Resources | Water Quality | Fishery Resources | Vegetation, Wildlife, & Wetlands | Recreation | Socioeconomics, Population, & Tribal Trust | Cultural Resources | Air Quality | Environmental Justice | Hazardous Materials | Noise     | Public Services, Utilities & Energy | Visual/Aesthetics | Transportation & Traffic | Cumulative Impacts | Scoping       | Other Comments | Oppose Project | Mailing List |           |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|------------|--|--------------------|-------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|
| 153                     | Jensen                      | Greg       | 5/7/04       |                           |                                    | E         |                                      |                 | B             |                   |                                  |            |  |                    |             |                       |                     |           |                                     |                   |                          |                    | A             | C, D           | F              |              |           |
| 154                     | Wilson                      | Terri      | 5/19/04      |                           | B                                  |           | T                                    | H, N, Q         | O, S, U       | D, M              | F, J                             | G, R       |  |                    |             | C, P                  |                     |           | E, I                                | L                 | K                        |                    |               |                | A              |              |           |
| 155                     | Corp                        | Dennis     | 5/20/04      |                           | D                                  |           |                                      |                 |               |                   |                                  |            |  |                    |             |                       |                     |           |                                     |                   | G                        | C                  | A, B, E, F, H |                | I              |              |           |
| 156                     | Garvey                      | Lydia      | 6/21/04      |                           |                                    | C         | B                                    |                 | A             |                   |                                  |            |  |                    |             |                       |                     |           |                                     |                   |                          |                    |               |                |                |              |           |
| 157                     | Rowley                      | Londa      | 5/18/04      |                           | B                                  |           | T                                    | H, N, Q         | O, S, U       | D, M              | F, J                             | G, R       |  |                    |             | C, P                  |                     |           | E, I                                | L                 | K                        |                    |               |                | A              |              |           |
| 158                     | Tributary White Water Tours | N/A        | 8/17/04      |                           |                                    |           | E, F, J                              | I               | H             | B                 | C, K                             | A          |  |                    |             | G                     |                     |           |                                     |                   |                          |                    |               | D              |                | L            |           |
| <b>TOTAL NON-BLANKS</b> |                             |            |              | <b>2</b>                  | <b>51</b>                          | <b>28</b> | <b>25</b>                            | <b>62</b>       | <b>71</b>     | <b>79</b>         | <b>73</b>                        | <b>81</b>  | <b>56</b>                                  | <b>3</b>           | <b>2</b>    | <b>9</b>              | <b>0</b>            | <b>37</b> | <b>8</b>                            | <b>0</b>          | <b>68</b>                | <b>25</b>          | <b>16</b>     | <b>7</b>       | <b>60</b>      | <b>66</b>    | <b>23</b> |

## APPENDIX E

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# Public Meeting Transcript and Spreadsheet

COPY

1 SCOPING MEETING REGARDING PROPOSED PLAN OF OPERATION

2 FOR TRINITY 1-8 PROJECT

3 SUBJECT FILE CODE: 2810

4 ---

5 MAY 13, 2004

6 ---

7  
8 MEETING HELD AT: WEAVERVILLE FIRE HALL

9 PARTICIPANTS:

10 JOYCE ANDERSEN  
11 DISTRICT RANGER, FOREST SERVICE  
12 WEAVERVILLE DISTRICT  
13 P.O. BOX 1190  
14 WEAVERVILLE, CA 96093

JAN FORD  
MEETING FACILITATOR

15 JAMES W. DEMMAGD  
16 GEOLOGIST/  
17 CERTIFIED MINERAL EXAMINER  
18 U.S.D.A. FOREST SERVICE  
19 3644 AVTECH PARKWAY  
20 REDDING, CA 96002

SAM FRINK  
FORESTER

21 GLORIA MARSHALL, PROPONENT  
22 CULLEN THOMAS, PROPONENT  
23 P.O. BOX 2116  
24 WEAVERVILLE, CA 96093

LARRY MCLEAN  
FORESTRY TECHNICIAN

25 MICHAEL MITCHELL  
26 RESOURCE PLANNER

27  
28  
DARLENE ROBERSON, C.S.R. 11167  
CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER  
P.O. BOX 2546  
WEAVERVILLE, CA 96093

1  
2           JAN FORD: FOLKS, HELLO. WELCOME TO THE TRINITY 1-8  
3 MINING PLANS OF OPERATIONS PROPOSAL PUBLIC MEETING. MY NAME  
4 IS JANUARY FORD. I'M GOING TO HELP FACILITATE THE MEETING  
5 TONIGHT. AND ONE OF MY ROLES IS TO HELP FACILITATE  
6 COMMUNICATION BETWEEN YOU FOLKS AND THE PROPONENTS AND THE  
7 FOREST SERVICE. AND WHAT THAT MEANS IS THAT WE WANT TO MAKE  
8 SURE THAT EVERYONE WHO HAS SOMETHING TO SAY GETS HEARD, AND  
9 THAT WE HAVE TIME FOR EVERYONE TO SPEAK IF THEY WISH.

10           SO AS PART OF THAT, WE'LL PROBABLY -- WE'LL HAVE A  
11 TIME LIMIT AS MUCH AS ANYONE -- SO THAT ANYONE CAN SPEAK UP  
12 TO THE END OF THAT TIME. WE'LL DO FIVE MINUTES PER PERSON.  
13 THAT'S COMING A LITTLE LATER IN THE AGENDA.

14           I DO WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT WE HAVE A COURT REPORTER  
15 HERE, DARLENE. SHE WILL BE TAKING AN ACCURATE TRANSCRIPT OF  
16 THE ENTIRE MEETING SO THAT ANYTHING YOU SAY WILL BE CAPTURED  
17 AND BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR LATER PERUSAL BY THE FOREST SERVICE  
18 AND THE PROPONENTS THEMSELVES.

19           RIGHT NOW I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE JOYCE ANDERSEN, AND  
20 SHE'LL HELP INTRODUCE THE REST OF THE FOLKS HERE.

21           JOYCE ANDERSEN: HI. I JUST WANT TO THANK YOU ALL  
22 FOR COMING TONIGHT. I'M JOYCE ANDERSEN. I'M THE DISTRICT  
23 RANGER HERE AT WEAVERVILLE. SO I'M RESPONSIBLE NOT ONLY FOR  
24 THE WEAVERVILLE DISTRICT, BUT ALSO THE BIG BAR DISTRICT  
25 DOWNRIVER. SO I'M GOING TO JUST LET ALL THE FOREST SERVICE  
26 PEOPLE WHO HAVE COME TONIGHT INTRODUCE THEMSELVES, STARTING  
27 WITH LARRY.

28           LARRY MCLEAN: LARRY MCLEAN, WITH THE TRM MANAGEMENT

1 UNIT, MINERALS OFFICER.

2 SAM FRENICS: I'M SAM FRENICS. I'M NOT WITH THE  
3 FOREST SERVICE HERE IN WEAVERVILLE, BUT I'M GOING TO BE  
4 WRITING THE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT WHEN WE DECIDE WHAT WE'RE  
5 GOING TO DO.

6 JAMES DEMAAGD: MY NAME IS JIM DEMAAGD. I'M A  
7 MINERAL EXAMINER WITH THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE, REGION FIVE.

8 MIKE MITCHELL: I'M MIKE MITCHELL. I'M THE RESOURCE  
9 STAFF OFFICER, AND I'M THE PROJECT LEADER FOR THE TRINITY 1-8  
10 PROJECT.

11 JAN FORD: AND THE PROPONENTS HERE, IF YOU'D  
12 INTRODUCE YOURSELF.

13 GLORIA MARSHALL: I'M GLORIA MARSHALL, AND MY  
14 PARTNER AND I ARE THE OWNERS OF THE TRINITY 1-8.

15 CULLEN THOMAS: I'M CULLEN THOMAS. I'M ALSO A  
16 GEOLOGIST AND PARTNER IN THE OPERATIONS OF TRINITY 1-8.

17 JAN FORD: OKAY. GREAT. THE REASON FOR THE MEETING  
18 TONIGHT -- THIS IS THE FIRST SCOPING MEETING, BUT THE REASON  
19 FOR THE MEETING IS SO THAT WE CAN GET THE PROPOSAL OUT SO  
20 THAT IT'S UNDERSTOOD AND CLEAR FOR EVERYONE. WE WANT TO MAKE  
21 SURE THAT YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT'S BEING PROPOSED, AND ALSO THAT  
22 YOU GET A CHANCE TO UNDERSTAND THE FOREST SERVICE ROLE.

23 THE FOREST SERVICE ROLE IN THIS TONIGHT IS TO  
24 FACILITATE COMMUNICATION. BUT I'M GOING TO LET JIM DEMAAGD  
25 TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT WHAT THE FOREST SERVICE ROLE IS UNDER  
26 THE RULES AND REGULATIONS THAT ARE TIED TO THE MINING LAW,  
27 AND HE'LL DO THAT IN JUST A MINUTE.

28 FOR TONIGHT WE'D LIKE TO HAVE OUR MEETING END BY

1 8:30. THAT'S PRETTY AMBITIOUS, BUT I THINK WE CAN DO THAT.  
2 WE DO WANT TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO  
3 SPEAK. SO AS I SAID, WE'LL PUT A TIME LIMIT ON EACH PERSON  
4 SPEAKING TO ENSURE THAT EVERYONE CAN TALK. THIS IS THE FIRST  
5 SCOPING MEETING, BUT THERE WILL BE OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO  
6 COMMENT ON THIS PROJECT.

7 AND THIS IS AN ADDRESS (INDICATING) THAT YOU CAN  
8 SEND WRITTEN COMMENTS TO. THERE IS A COPY OF THE PROPOSAL  
9 HERE ON THE TABLE. IF YOU HAVEN'T SEEN IT, PLEASE PICK IT UP  
10 BEFORE YOU GO. RIGHT NOW IT'S THE PROPOSED ACTION. AND YOU  
11 CAN TAKE A LOOK AT THAT AND PROVIDE COMMENTS TO THE FOREST  
12 SERVICE THAT WAY.

13 WE WOULD APPRECIATE IF YOU CAN KEEP YOUR COMMENTS  
14 FOCUSED ON THIS PROJECT TONIGHT, BECAUSE THESE FOLKS DID NOT  
15 COME PREPARED TO TALK ABOUT ANY OTHER PROJECTS. SO THE  
16 TRINITY 1-8 MINING PLAN OF OPERATIONS IS THE PROJECT WE'LL BE  
17 DISCUSSING TONIGHT.

18 LET'S SEE, SIGN-UP SHEET -- IF YOU HAVEN'T SIGNED  
19 UP, PLEASE DO THAT. IT GIVES YOU AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE PLACED  
20 ON THE MAILING LIST FOR THIS PROJECT IF YOU WISH.

21 AND WITH THAT, I THINK WE'LL TURN IT OVER TO JIM  
22 DEMAAGD. WE'LL HAVE A COUPLE SESSIONS HERE WHERE INFORMATION  
23 IS PRESENTED TO YOU, AND THEN WE'LL ASK FOR YOUR INPUT BACK.

24 SO JIM?

25 JIM DEMAAGD: THANK YOU.

26 MINERAL OPERATIONS WITH THE FOREST SERVICE FALL  
27 UNDER TWO DISTINCT CATEGORIES -- DISCRETIONARY, AND  
28 NONDISCRETIONARY ACTIONS. DISCRETIONARY ACTIONS ARE PROJECTS

1 SUCH AS MINERAL AND MATERIAL -- THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF  
2 ACTIONS FOR MINERALS FOR NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS:  
3 DISCRETIONARY AND NONDISCRETIONARY. THE DISCRETIONARY  
4 ACTION, AS I SAID, WITH A GRAVEL PIT OR MINERAL MATERIAL  
5 SALE, THE DISTRICT RANGER HAS THE DISCRETION, THE ABILITY TO  
6 SAY NO TO THE PROPOSAL. LOCATABLE MINERAL, SUCH AS GOLD,  
7 SILVER, MOST OF YOUR METALS, ARE CALLED NONDISCRETIONARY,  
8 WHICH MEANS THE FOREST CANNOT SAY NO TO THE PROPOSAL.

9 BUT EVEN THOUGH THEY CAN'T SAY NO, THEY CAN APPROVE  
10 A PLAN, SUCH AS THE CLAIMANTS' HERE. THEY COULD BE ABLE TO  
11 APPROVE A PLAN WITH TERMS AND CONDITIONS UPON THAT APPROVAL  
12 THAT THEY MUST ADHERE TO. SO IF THERE ARE CERTAIN TYPES OF  
13 ISSUES THAT NEED TO BE FOLLOWED OR AREAS THAT A PERSON WOULD  
14 NEED TO STAY OUT OF, THAT WOULD BE A TERM AND CONDITION UPON  
15 THE APPROVAL. THE FOREST SERVICE AND THE REGULATIONS DON'T  
16 ALLOW FOR THE DISTRICT RANGER TO SAY NO TO A LOCATABLE  
17 MINERALS PROPOSAL.

18 NOW, YOU GUYS ALL HAVE THE PROPOSED PLAN OF  
19 OPERATION. AND AS YOU SEE, IT'S PRETTY LENGTHY. IT HAS A  
20 LOT OF INFORMATION, AND THAT INFORMATION IS ALL LISTED THAT  
21 THEY MUST GIVE TO THE FOREST SERVICE UNDER 36CFR228.4.  
22 THAT'S OUR CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS THAT WE HAVE TO ADHERE  
23 TO WHEN MANAGING NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND.

24 ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANTED ME TO ADD?

25 JAN FORD: THAT COVERED IT.

26 ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THAT?

27 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 36CFR228(A)?

28 JIM DEMAAGD: AND I THINK IT'S POINT FOUR, WHICH IS

1 PLAN OF OPERATIONS CONTENT AND APPROVAL. AND I THINK THE  
2 DISTRICT CAN PROVIDE YOU COPIES IF YOU DON'T HAVE IT. I  
3 THINK IT IS LISTED ON FOREST SERVICE INTERNET, BUT I'M NOT  
4 REALLY SURE.

5 WHISKERS: IT'S ON THE INTERNET.

6 JIM DEMAAGD: SO THE FOREST SERVICE WEBSITE WILL  
7 HAVE THAT INFORMATION. AND IF YOU DON'T HAVE INTERNET  
8 ACCESS, JUST CONTACT LARRY MCLEAN OR MIKE MITCHELL AT THE  
9 DISTRICT, AND THEY CAN GET YOU THOSE.

10 JAN FORD: ANYTHING ELSE? GREAT. OKAY.

11 WE'VE ASKED THE MEETING PRO -- EXCUSE ME, THE  
12 PROJECT PROPONENTS TO COME AND TALK WITH YOU TODAY, BECAUSE  
13 THEY'RE THE ONES WHO KNOW THE MOST ABOUT THE PROJECT, WHAT  
14 THEY ARE ACTUALLY ATTEMPTING TO DO. SO WE'RE GOING TO ASK  
15 GLORIA AND CULLEN TO DISCUSS THAT WITH YOU. WHO IS --

16 GLORIA MARSHALL: I'LL GO FIRST.

17 I'M GLORIA MARSHALL, AND I'M -- I'LL GIVE YOU A  
18 LITTLE BIT OF A BACKGROUND ON CULLEN AND MYSELF. CULLEN'S A  
19 GEOLOGIST AND HAS A DEGREE ALSO IN ENGINEERING. HE HAS BEEN  
20 IN THE OIL BUSINESS, FIELD DEVELOPMENT, AND HEAD OF NUMEROUS  
21 COMPANIES FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, RETIRED IN THAT CAPACITY.  
22 AND HE AND I VENTURED OUT INTO THE GOLD BUSINESS A NUMBER OF  
23 YEARS AGO, INTO THE RESEARCH, VERY HEAVILY TRYING TO  
24 DIVERSIFY, BECAUSE OF THE OIL BUSINESS IN 1986 HIT US ALL  
25 PRETTY HARD.

26 AND NOW WE'RE IN THE GOLD BUSINESS AND HAVE BEEN FOR  
27 SIX YEARS. WE HAVE PRIVATE PROPERTY UP CANYON CREEK, AND WE  
28 RUN AN OPERATION THERE THAT IS PATENTED AND BONDED AND IS

1 COMPLETELY FACILITATED WITH ALL THE STATE AND FEDERAL RULES  
2 AND REGULATIONS THAT ARE REQUIRED, AND WE ARE TRYING TO DO  
3 OUR BEST TO TAKE AN AREA THAT HAS BEEN HYDRAULICKED AND MAKE  
4 A RESTORATION INTO A PRETTY AREA, AND RESTORE IT IN A MANNER  
5 THAT SHOULD BE PROPER AND PLEASABLE TO THE NEIGHBORS AND THE  
6 COMMUNITY.

7 IN MY BACKGROUND -- AND I SHOULD TELL YOU THIS, I'M  
8 AN ARTIST AND -- A WILDLIFE ARTIST, AND I'VE BEEN IN THE OIL  
9 BUSINESS FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS EARLY ON WITH CULLEN. THAT'S  
10 WHERE WE FIRST MET. BUT TO GET TO THE POINT WE ARE TONIGHT,  
11 WE'RE VERY REALISTIC ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT. WE'RE VERY  
12 REALISTIC, AND WE ARE VERY CONSCIENTIOUS ABOUT THE SITUATION  
13 WITH ANY TYPE OF MINING OR ANY TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT. AND  
14 WE'VE ALREADY GONE THROUGH A TEST PERIOD OF APPROXIMATELY  
15 THREE AND A HALF YEARS AGO AND TESTED AN AREA THAT -- ON  
16 TRINITY 1-8 THAT WAS APPROVED BY THE FOREST SERVICE, AND WENT  
17 THROUGH ALL THE REGULATIONS THAT WE HAD TO DO THERE, AND  
18 FOUND THAT IT WAS ADVANTAGEOUS TO US TO PROCEED ON IN CERTAIN  
19 AREAS OF THE TRINITY 1-8. AND I'LL LET CULLEN FOLLOW UP ON  
20 THAT.

21 WE'RE FROM TEXAS, BUT WE'VE MADE OUR HOME PRIMARILY  
22 HERE FOR THE LAST SIX YEARS, TRYING TO BE AS CONSCIENTIOUS AS  
23 WE COULD BE. AND OF COURSE WE SPEND AN AWFUL LOT OF MONEY  
24 WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY AND WITH THE PEOPLE HERE, AND  
25 BUILDING A BEAUTIFUL PLACE IN THE MOUNTAINS. AND WE DON'T  
26 INTEND TO GO OUT THERE AND STRIP MINE AND RUIN THE  
27 ENVIRONMENT, LIKE YOU SEE SO MANY PLACES HAVING HAPPENED.

28 HE'S BEEN MARRIED 60 YEARS AND HAS A FAMILY OF FOUR

1 CHILDREN, ALL GRADUATES, AND 11 GRANDCHILDREN AND FOUR  
2 GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN. AND I'M A LADY THAT IS FORTY YEARS OF  
3 MARRIAGE. SO WE'RE VERY CONSCIENTIOUS PEOPLE WHO ARE VERY  
4 SECURE IN OUR ENVIRONMENT, AND VERY CONSCIENTIOUS IN WHAT  
5 WE'RE DOING. AND WE RESPECT THE FOREST SERVICE THAT HAVE  
6 WORKED WITH US VERY CONSCIENTIOUSLY TO HELP US ON ANY MATTERS  
7 THAT WE'VE HAD TO -- THAT WE WERE UNSURE ABOUT.

8 AND CULLEN CAN MORE FULLY GIVE YOU THE DETAILS OF  
9 THE PROJECT TONIGHT. AND WE CERTAINLY WELCOME QUESTIONS.  
10 THANK YOU.

11 CULLEN THOMAS: GLORIA IS COMPLIMENTARY.

12 WE'VE BEEN PARTNERS FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. AND IN  
13 REALITY, WE CAME INTO THIS AREA LOOKING FOR GOLD, PROSPECTED  
14 YEARS AGO. WE SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME EVALUATING ONE AREA  
15 AGAINST THE OTHER. WE FOUND THIS IS THE MOST HIGHLY PROBABLE  
16 AREA WE COULD LOCATE IN TO MINE SOME GOLD. AND THIS IS OUR  
17 PROPOSAL.

18 IF YOU'LL REFER TO YOUR PLAN, I'LL GO THROUGH IT  
19 WITH YOU RATHER QUICKLY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, I'LL BE  
20 GLAD TO HANDLE THOSE TOO.

21 INTRODUCTION TO PLAN: WE'RE UP CANYON CREEK, AND AS  
22 WHISKERS CAN TELL YOU, JUST FOLLOW THE CANYON CREEK ROAD AS  
23 FAR AS YOU CAN GO AND TURN OFF THE FOREST SERVICE ROAD AND ON  
24 DOWN. AND WE HAVE A PRIVATE PROPERTY THERE THAT WE ARE  
25 CURRENTLY MINING AND HAVE BEEN MINING NOW FOR -- WHAT?

26 GLORIA MARSHALL: SIX YEARS.

27 CULLEN THOMAS: SIX YEARS.

28 GLORIA MARSHALL: NOT MINING IT, BUT MAKING

1 PREPARATION. AND WE GOT CLEARANCE APPROXIMATELY FIVE YEARS  
2 AGO, AND THAT'S A CALIFORNIA DIVISION.

3 CULLEN THOMAS: WE'RE FAMILIAR WITH MANY OF THE  
4 RULES AND REGULATIONS, BUT WE APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS.

5 ON PAGE THREE OF THE DESCRIPTION, YOU SEE A LEGAL  
6 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY, HOW TO GET THERE. IT'S VERY  
7 SIMPLE. JUST FOLLOW THE CANYON CREEK ROAD, AND WHEN YOU PASS  
8 THE SECOND STEEL BRIDGE, YOU'RE THEN ON TRINITY 1-8 AND WILL  
9 BE FOR A NUMBER OF MILES. THE ACCESS IS VERY SIMPLE, AND YOU  
10 CAN READ IT FOR YOURSELF.

11 THE GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE AREA, WE MIGHT PAUSE A  
12 MINUTE FOR THAT. SINCE WE ARE CONSCIENTIOUS ABOUT PROTECTING  
13 THE CREEK AND ALL OF THE OTHER SIGHT THINGS INVOLVED IN  
14 TRINITY COUNTY, WE'VE ESTABLISHED WHAT WE CALL A "NO MINING  
15 ZONE," WHICH WILL BE ESSENTIALLY 75 FEET FROM ANY PREFACES  
16 THAT GOES OFF INTO THE CREEK. THIS WILL NOT BE MINED. WE  
17 WILL TAKE THE FLOW WATER FROM THE CANYON CREEK, AND WE'LL  
18 FLOW IT GRAVITYWISE, THROUGH PROBABLY A THREE-INCH PIPE LINE,  
19 TO SOME PONDS WHICH WILL BE USED FOR EXTRACTING THE GOLD FROM  
20 THE ORE.

21 THERE WILL BE NO CHEMICALS USED IN THE ENTIRE  
22 PROCESS. IT'S ENTIRELY A WET WATER OPERATION. AND WE USE  
23 WATER AND GRAVITY TO SEPARATE THE DIFFERENT PARTICLES OF  
24 GOLD. WE'LL MINE AT ONE TIME A MAXIMUM OF FIVE ACRES. WHILE  
25 THERE ARE THREE DIFFERENT AREAS TO BE MINED, WE WILL TAKE  
26 THEM ONE AT A TIME AND MINE THAT PARTICULAR AREA UNTIL IT'S  
27 MINED OUT. THEN WE'LL MOVE TO A DIFFERENT AREA. AT NO TIME  
28 WILL WE HAVE APPROXIMATELY OVER FIVE ACRES AT ONE TIME.

1 THE RECLAMATION PART OF THE PLAN WILL BE CONTINUAL.  
2 AS WE MINE, WE WILL CONTINUALLY RESTORE THAT PART OF THE MINE  
3 THAT'S MINED. IF YOU READ THIS PLAN OF OPERATION IN DETAIL,  
4 YOU'LL SEE HOW WE PLAN ON DOING THAT.

5 SOME OF THE THINGS THAT WE HAVE NOTICED, AND ONE OF  
6 THE THINGS THAT WE'VE CALCULATED, THE VOLUME OF DIRT TO BE  
7 MOVED AND HOW LONG IT WILL TAKE US TO DO IT. WE'LL MOVE  
8 APPROXIMATELY A MILLION THREE HUNDRED SIXTY THOUSAND YARDS OF  
9 GRAVEL, AND WE'LL ONLY PROCESS A SMALL PORTION OF THAT. THE  
10 CONCEPT WILL BE THAT MOST OF THE AREA HERE EVIDENCE ALONG THE  
11 OUTCROPS OF CANYON CREEK SHOW THAT THE PLACER GRAVEL IS  
12 ANYWHERE FROM APPROXIMATELY 35 TO 65 FEET DEEP. BEING AT  
13 THIS DEPTH, WE FIND, THROUGH OUR EXPERIENCE, THAT THE TOP  
14 PORTION OF THAT IS UNPROFITABLE TO MINE. SO WHAT WE'LL HAVE  
15 TO DO IS DIG THROUGH IT, EVENTUALLY RESTORE IT, BUT WE'LL  
16 ONLY PROCESS THE BOTTOM 10 FEET ABOVE THE BEDROCK. THIS IS  
17 WHERE ALL THE GOLD IS FOUND, MOST OF THE GOLD IS FOUND. BUT  
18 THE UPPER PART DON'T PAY THE DIVIDENDS AS YOU MINE IT. IT'S  
19 A MATTER OF GETTING TO THE BEDROCK.

20 AND AT THAT POINT, WE'LL BE ABLE TO PROCESS THE ORE  
21 AND ALSO EXTRACT THE GOLD MINING THIS TYPE OF ROCK AND THIS  
22 MATERIAL. AND WE PLAN ON DOING IT AT THE RATE OF 250 CUBIC  
23 YARDS A DAY, PROBABLY 22 DAYS A MONTH, AND WE CONTINUE THAT  
24 PROCESS. IT WILL TAKE US 25 YEARS TO MINE THE AREA. IT'S AN  
25 EXTENSIVE AREA, QUITE A BIT OF GOLD TO BE FOUND.

26 BUT THEN AT SOME LATER TIME, WHEN THE ECONOMICS  
27 JUSTIFY IT, WE'LL INCREASE OUR VOLUME UP TO ABOUT 400 CUBIC  
28 YARDS A DAY, WHICH WILL PROBABLY CUT THE NUMBER OF YEARS OFF

1 THE TIME OF MINING.

2 NEXT QUESTION IS PROBABLY ASKING, WHY AM I IN THIS  
3 AREA? WE HAVE TWO VERY GOOD VALID REASONS FOR MINING IT.  
4 NUMBER ONE IS THE GOLD WE'VE RECOVERED ON THE ADJACENT  
5 OPERATION. THAT'S OUR OSWALD PATENTED PLACER MINE, WHICH IS  
6 FULLY PERMITTED. IT'S ON PRIVATE PROPERTY. WE OWN THE  
7 PROPERTY. WE HAD IT PERMITTED. SO ITS RESTORATION WILL  
8 COVER ANYTHING THAT WE FAIL TO DO. BUT WE INTEND TO RESTORE  
9 IT, BECAUSE, OWNING THE PROPERTY, IF WE DON'T RESTORE IT,  
10 IT'S TO OUR FAULT. IT'S TO OUR DETRIMENT IF WE DON'T RESTORE  
11 IT. BUT THE GOLD WE FOUND THERE DECLARES THAT WE MUST MINE  
12 THE TRINITY 1-8.

13 THE OTHER REASON WE WANT TO MINE IT IS PRIMARILY  
14 BECAUSE WE DUG A PIT, AND THIS PIT IS IN AN EXTENSIVE ORE  
15 AREA, AND IT CAME OUT VERY POSITIVE. AND FOR THOSE REASONS,  
16 WE KNOW THE GOLD IS PRESENT AND PLAN ON MINING IT.

17 IN GENERAL, OUR PLAN IS DIVIDED INTO THREE AREAS  
18 THAT WILL BE MINED. WE LABELED THEM TWO, THREE, AND FOUR.  
19 THE ORDER OF MINING WILL VARY A LITTLE BIT, BUT WE'LL  
20 PROBABLY START ON AREA NUMBER THREE. IF YOU'LL REFER TO YOUR  
21 MAP A MINUTE, AREA THREE IS THE EXTREME SOUTHWEST PORTION.  
22 IT'S THE HEAVILY BLUED AREA, WHERE IT IS ADJACENT TO THE  
23 MINING AREA. DO YOU SEE IT ON THE MAP? THAT MINING AREA IS  
24 OUR PRIVATE PROPERTY. WE OWN FORTY ACRES THERE. IT'S AN OLD  
25 PATENTED MINE. WE BOUGHT THE MINE, AND WE ARE CURRENTLY  
26 MINING IT AT THIS TIME.

27 BUT AREA THREE IS LOCATED THERE ON A HIGH CLIFF ON  
28 THE BANK, WITH MANY RIDGES IN IT, AND IT'S QUITE RUGGED. AND

1 THIS IS ONE AREA -- THE REASON FOR CHOOSING IT, IT'S PROBABLY  
2 GOT LESS TOPSOIL OR LESS BURDEN TO BE REMOVED. WE ESTIMATE  
3 THAT THE BEDROCK IS NO DEEPER THAN 35 FEET. IN ADDITION TO  
4 THAT, WE'LL HAVE NO PITS OR NO EQUIPMENT ON THIS PARTICULAR  
5 PROPERTY. WE'LL TAKE THAT PROPERTY AND HALL IT DOWN AND RUN  
6 IT THROUGH A PROCESSING PLANT THAT'S NOW OPERATIONAL ON THE  
7 OSWALD MINE. IT'S VERY CLOSE, VERY HANDY. THE ONLY ACCESS  
8 TO THIS AREA IS THROUGH OUR PRIVATE PROPERTY. SO IT WILL BE  
9 MINED FIRST, AND THAT'S WHERE WE HOPE TO START.

10 THE ONE THING WE DO -- AND WE'VE DISCUSSED THIS WITH  
11 THE FOREST SERVICE IN DETAIL -- WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO MINE  
12 THIS IN DIFFERENT ORDERS IF NECESSARY. WHY? FOR ONE REASON.  
13 IF WE SEE THAT WE'RE WRONG IN ONE AREA AND WE'RE NOT GETTING  
14 THE GOLD WE EXPECTED -- WHICH WE THINK IS VERY HIGHLY  
15 UNLIKELY -- WE MAY RECOVER THAT AREA AND MOVE TO THE SECOND  
16 OR THIRD AREA. BUT THIS IS WHAT WE'LL DO: WE'LL NEVER OPEN  
17 UP MORE THAN ONE AREA AT A TIME. THAT AREA WILL BE  
18 COMPLETELY MINED OUT AND RESTORED BEFORE WE MOVE TO ANY  
19 SECOND AREA.

20 BUT THE PLANS ARE THEN TO MOVE FROM AREA THREE INTO  
21 AREA TWO. AREA TWO IS THE LARGER AREA YOU FIND IN --  
22 PROBABLY IN A RED-LOOKING COLOR ON THE MAP. THIS AREA IS ONE  
23 OF THE PRIMARY AREAS WE'RE LOOKING FOR. IT'S WHERE WE DUG  
24 OUR <sup>First</sup> TEST PIT. WE KNOW IT CONTAINS GOOD GOLD. AND ONE OF THE  
25 PROBLEMS WE SEE THERE -- THE BIG BLUE-LOOKING TONGUE RUNNING  
26 UP INTO THE RED AREA IS A GULLY. THIS GULLY IS QUITE  
27 EXTENSIVE, AND IT'S ONE OF THE REASONS THAT WE HAVE ELECTED  
28 TO MINE THAT IN THE ORDER THAT WE HAVE.

1 PARDON ME IF I FIND MY PLACE ON THE MAP.

2 BUT THE GULLY ITSELF IS TIMBER. WE'LL HAVE TO GO IN  
3 AND CUT HERE, AND AS WE CUT IT, WE'LL USE THIS AS A STAGING  
4 AREA, YOU MIGHT SAY, FOR THE FUTURE MINING. WE'LL BUILD A  
5 BARRIER AT THE END OF THE GULLY. THE GULLY CONTAINS SOME  
6 FOUR AND TWO-THIRDS ACRES, AND AT THE END OF THE GULLY IS A  
7 CHOKE POINT ON IT. THIS CHOKE POINT IS SOME 100 FEET FROM  
8 THE CREEK ITSELF. AND THIS CHOKE POINT, WE'LL BUILD A  
9 BARRIER. IT WILL BE 25 FOOT WIDE AT THE BASE AND AT LEAST 15  
10 FEET HIGH TO START WITH. IT WILL BE BUILT OUT OF HEAVY ROCK  
11 AND GRAVEL, AND WE'LL USE IT TO REMOVE THE -- WHAT I'M TRYING  
12 TO SAY IS THE MOUND OF THE TOPSOIL -- NOT THE TOPSOIL, BUT  
13 THE MOUND OF THE OVERBURDEN THAT WE'LL DIG OFF THE SIDE OF  
14 AREA TWO, ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE GULLY. THIS WILL BE  
15 REMOVED AND PUSHED DOWN INTO THE GULLY ITSELF.

16 THE RESTORATION PLAN CALLS FOR LEVELING OUT THIS  
17 AREA, RESTORING IT, BRINGING IT BACK UP TO NORMAL ELEVATION.  
18 AND AS WE DO, WE WILL USE IT AS A PLACE TO STORE THE  
19 OVERBURDEN.

20 AS WE GET DOWN TO THE BOTTOM OF THE PIT, WE'LL OPEN  
21 UP ABOUT FIVE ACRES MAXIMUM AT ONE TIME ON AREA TWO. THIS  
22 WILL BE MINED IN SUCH A WAY THAT WE'LL RESTORE THE TOPSOIL  
23 FOR RESTORATION. WE'LL TAKE THE SMALL TWO-AND-A-HALF TO  
24 FIVE-ACRE AREA, REMOVE THE OVERBURDEN, PUT IT IN THE GULLY.  
25 WE'LL HAVE A PIT AT THAT TIME THAT WILL BE AS DEEP AS  
26 NECESSARY, PROBABLY SOME 35 TO 65 FEET DEEP. THE EDGES OF  
27 THE PIT WILL BE AT ABOUT A 60 DEGREE ANGLE. WE FOUND THIS IS  
28 ADEQUATE TO KEEP IT FROM FALLING IN ON US, AND ALSO ADEQUATE

1 TO KEEP ANYTHING FROM CAUSING ANY DAMAGE TO THE OFFSET AREA.

2 AND ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WE PLAN ON DOING IS, ALL  
3 ROADS WILL BE PROTECTED WITH A FORTY FOOT BARRIER FROM THE  
4 ROAD TO THE EDGE OF THE PIT ITSELF, THEN 60 DEGREE ANGLE DOWN  
5 AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PIT. AND THIS WILL ALSO BE DONE AT A  
6 100 FOOT AREA IN CASE OF BEING NEXT TO THE CREEK. SO WE'LL  
7 HAVE TWO THINGS TO PROTECT: THE CREEK -- WE'LL HAVE A  
8 BARRIER THAT'S SOME HUNDRED FEET FROM THE CREEK, AND THEN THE  
9 EXCAVATION AREA WILL HAVE 60-FOOT SLOPE FROM THERE DOWN TO  
10 THE BOTTOM OF THE PIT. SO WE'LL HAVE A BIG, NICE BARRIER TO  
11 KEEP ANYTHING FROM GOING INTO THE CREEK.

12 THE IDEA IS TO MINE IT IN SUCH A WAY IT DOESN'T  
13 DISTURB THE CREEK OR THE ENVIRONMENT ANY MORE THAN NECESSARY.  
14 AREA TWO WILL BE MINED IN THAT MANNER. WE'LL PLAY LEAPFROG.  
15 BY "LEAPFROG," I MEAN WE'LL TAKE TWO AND A HALF ACRES, MINE  
16 IT OUT, AND MOVE OVER TO THE NEXT TWO AND A HALF ACRES; TAKE  
17 THE OVERBURDEN TOPSOIL, REPLACE THE PREVIOUS TWO AND A HALF  
18 ACRES WITH THAT, MINE IT OUT, AND THEN GO TO THE NEXT ACRE,  
19 AND SO ON. BUT THERE WILL BE MINED A MAXIMUM OF FIVE ACRES  
20 AT A TIME. AND WE'LL ALWAYS HAVE A PLACE TO PUT OVERBURDEN  
21 TO GET TO THE BEDROCK TO DO THE MINING.

22 LET ME SEE WHERE I'M AT. TOO MUCH OF THIS IS JUST  
23 OFF THE CUFF.

24 THE RECLAMATION AREA WILL BE VERY SIMPLE. WE'LL  
25 RESTORE IT TO -- IT WON'T BE QUITE TO THE ORIGINAL CONTOUR,  
26 BUT IT WILL BE MUCH MORE UNIFORM IN CONTOUR. WE'LL TAKE THE  
27 HILLS AND THE LITTLE, BITTY WRINKLES OUT OF IT, PUT IT ON A  
28 FAIRLY LEVEL SLOPE. WE'LL COVER UP THE GULLY AND RECLAIM ALL

1 OF AREA TWO AS ONE AREA. WHEN WE GET THROUGH WITH THAT, THEN  
2 WE'LL COME BACK AND WE'LL PLANT TREES. AND THESE TREES  
3 THAT -- WE PLAN ON PUTTING ABOUT 200 TREES PER ACRE:  
4 PONDEROSA PINE AND DOUGLAS FIR. THEN WE'LL PLANT SOME BRUSH,  
5 AND THEY'LL BE IN ABOUT 20-, 25-FOOT SPACES, AND CONSISTING  
6 OF DEER BRUSH, BUCK BRUSH, REDBUD, MANZANITA, AND BIRCH  
7 MOUNTAIN MAHOGANY. AND WE FIND THIS IS VERY ADEQUATE TO KEEP  
8 IT FROM ERODING, AND RESTORE THE AREA SIMILAR TO WHAT IT WAS  
9 TO BEGIN WITH.

10 AREA TWO WILL BE THE PRIMARY AREA THAT WE'LL DO ALL  
11 THE WORK. IT WILL HAVE PITS IN IT THAT WILL BE RESERVOIR FOR  
12 THE WATER. OUR WATER WILL BE -- WILL FLOW FROM THE CANYON  
13 CREEK UP THROUGH THE PIPELINE, OVER TO THE POND. THERE WILL  
14 BE TWO SETTLING PONDS. THE FIRST WILL BE WHAT WE TERM THE  
15 FRESHWATER POND, AND THEN A SECOND POND WHICH WILL BE THE  
16 PRIMARY SETTLING POND. AND THE WATER WILL GO FROM THE  
17 FRESHWATER POND THROUGH THE EQUIPMENT, BACK TO THE SETTLING  
18 POND, INTO THE FRESHWATER POND AND WILL BE RECIRCULATED.

19 WE'LL USE APPROXIMATELY 120,000 GALLONS A DAY OUT OF  
20 BIG EAST FORK. AND THIS BIG EAST FORK IS A VERY GOOD STREAM.  
21 IT HASN'T GONE DRY IN -- I DON'T KNOW. I'VE TALKED TO SOME  
22 OLD-TIMERS WHO SAY IT WILL NEVER GO DRY. IT'S A BIG STREAM.  
23 WHAT LITTLE WATER WE TAKE OUT WILL NEVER BE NOTICED. BUT THE  
24 PONDS WILL HAVE APPROXIMATELY 830,000 GALLONS IN IT.

25 THE CIRCULATION OF THE WATER WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO  
26 OUR RECOVERY OF THE GOLD ITSELF. OUR RECOVERY PLANT WILL  
27 CONSIST PRIMARILY OF THE WASH PLANT, WHICH WILL BE VIBRATING  
28 SCREENS. WE'LL HAVE TWO SCREENS, PROBABLY A QUARTER INCH

1 SCREEN, PROBABLY THREE-QUARTER INCH SCREEN. QUARTER INCH  
2 MATERIAL WILL COME OFF THE UPPER PLATE, AND AS IT COMES OFF,  
3 IT WILL BE RUN THROUGH CIRCULATING -- ROTATING, CIRCULATING  
4 CONES WITH RIBS IN THEM THAT WILL RECOVER PROBABLY 90 PERCENT  
5 OF THE GOLD THERE IN THAT CIRCULATING CONE. IT WILL  
6 CIRCULATE ABOUT 120 RPM'S A MINUTE. THE GOLD WILL GO AGAINST  
7 THE SIDE, WHICH HAS RIBS ON IT. THE RIBS WILL CATCH THE  
8 GOLD, AND THE TRASH WILL BE WASHED OVER THE SIDES, AND WE'LL  
9 FINALLY USE IT IN RESTORATION.

10 THE LARGER PART WILL GO ACROSS AN OLD-TIME SLUICE  
11 BOX. THIS IS WHERE WE'LL RECOVER EVERYTHING FROM  
12 THREE-QUARTER OF AN INCH DOWN TO A QUARTER. IF WE'RE LUCKY  
13 ENOUGH, WE'LL PROBABLY HAVE A NUGGET SWEEP ON A CONVEYOR,  
14 WHICH WILL TAKE ALL THE BIG ROCKS, WHICH WILL BE THE SIX-INCH  
15 AND DOWN TO THREE-QUARTER OF AN INCH, DOWN A CONVEYOR TO A  
16 NUGGET SWEEP. THE NUGGET SWEEP WILL ATTRACT AND DETECT ANY  
17 METAL GOING UP IT. I WISH WE COULD BE SELECTIVE FOR ONLY  
18 GOLD, BUT IF IT'S GOT A PIECE OF OLD NAIL OR ANYTHING IN IT,  
19 IT WILL DETECT THAT TOO, AND IT WILL SWEEP IT OFF INTO A  
20 CONCENTRATE CONTAINER. WE'LL TAKE THE CONCENTRATES INTO A  
21 LAB AND DO THE FINAL RESTORATION THERE. IT WILL BE  
22 PROFITABLE ENOUGH WE CAN PAY FOR THE OPERATIONS AND RECOVERY  
23 AS WE GO.

24 THE EQUIPMENT TO BE USED IS OUTLINED ON PAGE 13 OF  
25 YOUR OUTLINE. VERY STRAIGHT FORWARD. WE'LL USE CAT DOZERS,  
26 FRONT-END LOADERS, EXCAVATOR, BACKHOE, DUMP TRUCK, POWER  
27 PLANTS, AND GRIZZLIES, AND SLUICES, BOWLS AND SO ON. IT WILL  
28 BE A TYPICAL MINING OPERATION -- PLACER PLANT MINING

1 OPERATION.

2 EVERYBODY IS ALWAYS CONCERNED, HOW ARE YOU GOING TO  
3 PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT FROM ANY HAZARDOUS WASTE? WE'LL  
4 BUILD A BERM AROUND OUR FUEL PUMP, HAVE FUEL IN THERE, THAT  
5 HAS OIL, LUBRICANTS, AND FUEL OF ALL TYPES. THEY'LL BE  
6 MARKED IN DRUMS, AND WE'LL PROBABLY HAVE 600 TO A THOUSAND  
7 GALLON CONTAINERS OF DIESEL ON LOCATION AT THE TIME. THIS IS  
8 NECESSARY. BUT WE'LL HAVE A BIG BERM AROUND IT THAT WILL  
9 CONTAIN MORE VOLUME THAN THE ENTIRE LOAD OF FUEL IS PUMPED AT  
10 ONE TIME. SO THERE IS NO WAY THIS CAN GET INTO THE CREEK.

11 WE'VE THOUGHT OF EVERYTHING WE CAN THINK OF, AND OUR  
12 NEXT STEP IS WAITING FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.  
13 THIS WILL GIVE US A FINAL REVIEW OF WHAT'S NECESSARY TO  
14 PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND TAKE IT AND RESTORE IT PROPERLY,  
15 TAKE CARE OF THE FRESH AIR QUALITY. THERE WILL BE NO  
16 CHEMICALS USED. WE'LL NATURALLY HAVE TO HAVE BURN PERMITS IF  
17 WE DO ANY BURNING, AND WE'LL ONLY TRAVEL ON PROBABLY EXISTING  
18 ROADS, OUTSIDE OF A FEW FEET OFF OF THE EXISTING ROADS INTO  
19 THE PROCESSING AREA ITSELF.

20 SOLID WASTE, WE'LL RECLAIM THAT AND TAKE IT TO AN  
21 AUTHORIZED DUMP AND STORE IT THERE. WE HOPE TO HAVE THE  
22 FINAL RECLAMATION DONE WITHIN SIX TO NINE MONTHS AFTER THE  
23 FINAL WORK IS DONE. BUT THE RESTORATION WILL TAKE PLACE AS  
24 WE MINE, NO MORE THAN FIVE ACRES AT A TIME. IT WILL BE  
25 RECLAIMED BEFORE WE MOVE TO THE NEXT AREA.

26 THE BERMS AND THE CHOKE POINT ON AREA TWO WILL  
27 PROTECT OUR STREAMS. AND ALSO, THE SLOPE GOING DOWN INTO OUR  
28 EXCAVATION PIT WILL PROTECT IT IN EVERY WAY. WE'LL PROBABLY

1 HAVE 55-GALLON DRUMS OF ANY HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, IF THEY'RE  
2 NOT IN THE BIG THOUSAND-GALLON TANKS. THESE WILL BE MARKED  
3 WITH OUR NAMES AND WHAT THEY CONTAIN.

4 AND IN REALITY, OUR OBJECT IS TO DO THIS: MINE AND  
5 OBTAIN THE GOLD, THEN PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND PROTECT THE  
6 BEAUTY OF CANYON CREEK. AND THAT'S, IN GENERAL, WHAT WE'LL  
7 DO. THANK YOU.

8 JAN FORD: THANK YOU, COLLIN.

9 BEFORE WE MOVE TO COMMENT, IS THERE ANYTHING THAT  
10 CULLEN TALKED ABOUT THAT'S NOT CLEAR, ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT --  
11 LET'S START HERE.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'M WORRIED ABOUT AFTER THE  
13 WATER GOES THROUGH THE PROCESSING, WHERE DOES IT GO? DOES IT  
14 RETURN TO THE CREEK, OR -- A

15 CULLEN THOMAS: THERE ARE TWO THINGS -- TWO THINGS  
16 WILL HAPPEN. IN SPITE OF ALL WE CAN DO -- AND WE WISH WE CAN  
17 CONTAIN THOSE PONDS SO THEY DIDN'T LEAK -- BUT WHEN THEY  
18 LEAK, YOU REALIZE THAT THEY'RE LEAKING INTO THE SUBSOIL. AND  
19 THE PONDS WILL BE AT LEAST PROBABLY 200 YARDS FROM THE CREEK  
20 ITSELF. AND ANY WATER THAT'S PERCOLATED THROUGH 200 FEET OF  
21 SUBSOIL, MAN, YOU HAVEN'T GOT A BIT OF PROBLEM AT ALL.

22 THE NEXT THING IS, RATHER THAN HAVING EXCESSIVE  
23 WATER, EVAPORATION TAKES OVER. THAT'S THE REASON WE HAVE TO  
24 REPLENISH THE WATER EVERY DAY WE MINE. EVAPORATION TAKES  
25 PLACE, AND AS THIS TAKES PLACE, WE HAVE TO PUT NEW WATER IN,  
26 BECAUSE OF EVAPORATION. AND ALSO WETTING THE ORE, IT TAKES A  
27 LOT OF WATER TO DO THAT. SO WE WON'T HAVE EXCESSIVE WATER.  
28 THEN, WHEN WE GET THROUGH, WE'LL FINALLY HAVE TO LET THE

1 PONDS THEMSELVES DRY UP, COVER IT UP, AND RESTORE THEM TOO.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: HOW MANY THOUSANDS OF GALLONS  
3 A DAY? A

4 CULLEN THOMAS: WE'LL PROBABLY DO ABOUT 120,000  
5 GALLONS A DAY.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: ONE HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND  
7 GALLONS A DAY IS GOING THROUGH THE SYSTEM AND INTO THE  
8 HOLDING PONDS, AND THERE IS NO DRAINAGE FOR THIS OTHER THAN  
9 EVAPORATING? A

10 CULLEN THOMAS: EVAPORATION. AND WHAT IT AMOUNTS TO  
11 IS, WETTING AND/OR AND EVAPORATION REQUIRES ADDING 120,000  
12 GALLONS A DAY. WE'RE GOING TO PROCESS ABOUT 150 YARDS OF  
13 GRAVEL A DAY. IT TAKES A LOT OF WATER TO WET IT, AND THE ORE  
14 ITSELF WILL BE WET WHEN WE PUT IT BACK INTO THE RESTORATION.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: SO THERE IS NOT A DRAINAGE  
16 SYSTEM AT ALL? B

17 CULLEN THOMAS: NO, THERE IS NOT A DRAINAGE SYSTEM  
18 AT ALL. YOU'VE GOT TO ADD TO THE WATER BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING  
19 TO LOSE IT.

20 ANOTHER QUESTION OVER HERE?

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I WAS WONDERING, ON THE MAP  
22 THERE IS AN AREA 2-A. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU MENTIONED THAT OR  
23 NOT? A

24 CULLEN THOMAS: AREA 2-A -- THAT MAP IS NOT UPDATED  
25 IN THAT AREA. AREA 2-A HAS BEEN DELETED. AREA TWO INCLUDES  
26 EVERYTHING, EVERYTHING TWO, LESS AREA 2-A. I'M SORRY, IT  
27 SHOULD HAVE BEEN DELETED. IT WASN'T DELETED.

28 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: AND YOUR CHEMICAL STORAGE

1 AREA, DID YOU SAY YOU WOULD BE SEALING THE GROUND WITHIN THAT  
2 AREA SO IT WOULDN'T -- ] C B

3 CULLEN THOMAS: NO, WE WON'T SEAL IT. WE'LL SEAL IT  
4 IN THIS MATTER: WE'LL COVER IT WITH PLASTIC, LINE IT WITH  
5 PLASTIC LINER, AND COVER IT WITH NORMAL DIRT. AND IT WILL BE  
6 PROHIBITED FROM DRAINING OUT OF THAT AREA. AND HOPEFULLY  
7 WE'LL NEVER HAVE A LEAK IN OUR TANKS.

8 THE TANKS WILL BE ON STILTS, AND THEY WON'T BE ON  
9 THE GROUND AT ALL. AND IF THERE IS ANY LEAKAGE, WE'LL SEE  
10 IT. ANY SPILLAGE, WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE THAT AND RECLAIM IT  
11 ALSO. ESSENTIALLY, THERE WILL BE NO LEAKAGE THERE. IN CASE  
12 THERE WERE LEAKAGE, THAT'S WHAT THE BERM IS FOR, TO KEEP IT  
13 FROM PERMEATING INTO THE -- OR PENETRATING INTO THE GROUND.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: AND YOU SAID YOU WOULD BUILD  
15 A PLACE FOR A NIGHT WATCHMAN AND ANOTHER BUILDING. WHERE  
16 WOULD THOSE GO? ] D

17 CULLEN THOMAS: THAT WOULD BE ESSENTIALLY ON WHAT'S  
18 TERMED AS THE PROCESSING SITE. I THINK THIS MAP THAT WE HAVE  
19 REPRODUCED DOES NOT HAVE THAT PROCESSING MAP ON IT. BUT  
20 ESSENTIALLY IT WILL BE IN THE SOUTH PART OF AREA TWO. THE  
21 PROCESSING PLANT WILL BE THERE, AND IT WILL BE PART OF IT.

22 NOW, THE REASON FOR THE NIGHT WATCHMAN DEAL IS --  
23 WELL, LET'S FACE IT, WE HAD LOTS OF VANDALISM, AND IT'S  
24 NECESSARY. WE'LL HAVE A NIGHT WATCHMAN THERE TO WATCH THE  
25 EQUIPMENT. WE'LL HAVE A LOT OF EQUIPMENT THERE. AND WE'LL  
26 HAVE A SHED, PULL-BARN TYPE THING, AND PUT SOME EQUIPMENT IN  
27 AND HAVE A PLACE TO REPAIR IT.

28 ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?

1 [ UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: YES, I HAVE A QUESTION. ON  
2 THE FRONT PAGE IT SAYS AREA NUMBER FOUR EXPIRED ON DECEMBER  
3 31ST, BUT THEN THERE IS NO PLAN FOR IT. I WAS JUST CONFUSED  
4 ABOUT THAT.] A

5 CULLEN THOMAS: WE PURCHASED THIS LAND, THIS TRINITY  
6 1-8 PERMIT FROM ANOTHER PARTY. THEY HAD AN ORIGINAL PLAN OF  
7 OPERATION WHICH INCLUDED AREA NUMBER FOUR. THAT PLAN, WE  
8 ADOPTED IT, AND IT WAS TRANSFERRED INTO US, AND IT EXPIRED AT  
9 THE DATE LISTED, AND WE PLAN ON REACTIVATING THAT AREA AND  
10 MINING IT. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, WE STILL HAVE A BOND UP ON  
11 THAT AREA TODAY.

12 [ UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: SO YOU'RE MASTER PETROLEUM,  
13 RIGHT?] B

14 CULLEN THOMAS: YES, MA'AM.

15 [ UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: AND THE OTHER QUESTION I HAD,  
16 TOO, WAS THAT THE REQUEST FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE TIMBER AS  
17 WELL, IS THAT SOMETHING THAT YOU GUYS HAVE BEEN GRANTED, OR  
18 YOU WON'T KNOW UNTIL -- ] C

19 CULLEN THOMAS: WELL, WE REQUESTED THAT WE GET TO  
20 PURCHASE THE TIMBER. NOW, WHAT HAPPENS TO THE TIMBER -- AND  
21 THE FOREST SERVICE CAN TELL YOU MORE ABOUT THIS -- BUT THE  
22 TIMBER WE HAVE -- AND WE'LL CLEAR ABOUT, I THINK A MAXIMUM OF  
23 SIX AND A QUARTER ACRES, FIVE ACRES AT A TIME. THAT AMOUNT  
24 OF TIMBER IS NOT ENOUGH BRING A BIG TIMBER BUYER IN TO BUY.  
25 IT HAS VERY LITTLE TIMBER VALUE. WE'D LIKE TO BUY IT  
26 PERSONALLY. IT'S UP TO THE FOREST SERVICE IF THEY SELL IT TO  
27 US. WE HAVE NO CONTROL. WE'D LIKE TO BUY IT, OKAY?

28 [ UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'M SURE YOU WOULD.] C

1 CULLEN THOMAS: IT'S NOT THAT BIG A DEAL.

2 GLORIA MARSHALL: NOT ALL OF IT -- AS YOU WILL SEE,  
3 AS YOU CAN RIGHTLY SEE, THE TIMBER IS NOT THE PRIMARY GOAL IN  
4 ANY OF THIS, BECAUSE THE TIMBER HAS BEEN BURNED AND --

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'VE BEEN UP THERE. I WAS  
6 BORN AND RAISED THERE, SO I KNOW WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE. C

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I HAVE A QUESTION. BRINGING  
8 THE WATER FROM CANYON CREEK, IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING? A

9 CULLEN THOMAS: BIG EAST FORK.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: BIG EAST FORK. SO WHERE DO  
11 YOU BRING THAT IN? DOES IT COME ACROSS PRIVATE PROPERTY?  
12 I'M JUST INTERESTED TO KNOW WHERE THE GREATEST AMOUNT COMES  
13 FROM. B

14 CULLEN THOMAS: PRIMARILY WE'LL DO THIS. THE ENTIRE  
15 SERIES OF MAPS IS NOT REPRODUCED HERE. WE HAVE ANOTHER MAP  
16 THAT SHOWS WHERE IT TAKES PLACE. WE HAVE TO GO UP THE CREEK  
17 FAR ENOUGH TO GET A WATER HEAD, AND WE'LL FLOW IT HERE TO THE  
18 MINING PROPERTY.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: HOW MUCH OF A WATER HEAD? B

20 CULLEN THOMAS: WELL, WE'LL PROBABLY HAVE 75 FEET,  
21 MAYBE 100 FEET A HEAD. SO WE HAVE TO GO UP THE CREEK TO GE'  
22 THAT ELEVATION. AND WE HAVE A SIMILAR TYPE SITUATION NOW O'  
23 THE OSWALD MINING PROPERTY. IT WORKS VERY EFFICIENTLY, AND  
24 IT FLOWS WATER, AND IT DOES A GOOD JOB.

25 THE ONLY PROBLEM IS, WHEN THE CREEK GETS UP, THE  
26 DIVERSION COMES OUT, AND THAT GIVES US HEADACHES.

27 GLORIA MARSHALL: YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT A THREE-INCH  
28 LINE. YOU'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT DAMMING THE CREEK UP, NOT

1 TALKING ABOUT DOING ANYTHING TO THE CREEK, JUST PUTTING A  
2 THREE-INCH DIVERSION.

3 CULLEN THOMAS: OUR DIVERSION, FISH AND GAME PUT IT  
4 IN FOR US. IT WAS THEIR APPROVAL. IT'S ESSENTIALLY A  
5 CONTAINER THAT'S MAYBE -- IT'S 14 INCHES DIAMETER AND TWO AND  
6 A HALF, THREE-FOOT LONG. THOUSANDS OF LITTLE,  
7 THREE-THIRTY-SECONDTHS HOLES, VERY SMALL, TO KEEP THE SMALL  
8 FISHES OUT AND KEEP THE TRASH OUT. AND IT FILLS UP WITH  
9 WATER, FLOWS FROM GRAVITY DOWN TO THE OPERATION.

10 ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?

11 JAN FORD: THERE WAS A QUESTION IN THE BACK. DID  
12 YOU RAISE YOUR HAND?

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I WAS GOING TO, BUT I HADN'T  
14 YET, BUT I WILL.

15 I HAVE TWO QUESTIONS. IF THERE IS NOT MUCH  
16 SIGNIFICANT VALUE IN THE TIMBER, WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO WITH  
17 IT? A

18 CULLEN THOMAS: WELL, A COUPLE OF THINGS. YOU KNOW,  
19 ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WE HAVE DONE, AND WE MAY DO THIS, WE  
20 MAY ACTUALLY SELL IT. BUT WE'LL PROBABLY HAVE TO STOCKPILE  
21 IT AND BUY IT. THE TIMBER HAULERS -- WE'LL CLEAR 20 ACRES,  
22 22 ACRES. IF WE DID IT ALL AT ONCE, THEY'D LOVE IT. WHEN WE  
23 DO FIVE ACRES, IT'S NOT WORTH THEIR TIME.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: IF YOU HAVE PLANS TO SELL IT,  
25 THEN YOU HAVE PLANS TO MAKE A PROFIT ON IT. A

26 CULLEN THOMAS: I DOUBT IF WE MAKE A PROFIT. WE  
27 HOPE TO BREAK EVEN.

28 GLORIA MARSHALL: LET ME INTERJECT IN HERE. I DON'T

1 MEAN TO INTERRUPT.

2 THERE ARE SEVERAL REASONS THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO BUY  
3 THE TIMBER. ONE, WE CAN CONTROL THE DAMAGE TO THE AREA WITH  
4 THE LOGGING TRUCKS AND TO ANY OTHER TYPE OF IMPACT THAT WE  
5 MIGHT COULD HAVE. AND THAT WAY, TOO, IF WE DIG A CERTAIN  
6 AREA, AND IT'S NOT -- LIKE HE SAID, IT'S NOT REALLY  
7 ADVANTAGEOUS TO ANYONE WHO BUYS BIG TRUCKS OF TIMBER, LIKE  
8 THE LOGGING CONTRACTORS IN THIS AREA. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO  
9 GET VERY MUCH FOR IT. THERE ARE A FEW SMALL LOGGING  
10 CONTRACTORS IN THE AREA.

11 BUT YOU CONTAIN YOUR DAMAGES AND THE AREA. I MEAN,  
12 WE DON'T WANT TO BE LIABLE FOR THEM GOING OUT THERE AND DOING  
13 SOME THINGS THAT WE DON'T WANT DONE. AND SO THAT SHOULD BE  
14 TO OUR ADVANTAGE, AND RIGHTFULLY SO. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO  
15 CONTROL THAT, TO HELP US NOT TO VIOLATE WHAT OUR PLANS ARE.

16 CULLEN THOMAS: LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING. IT'S NOT  
17 PROFITABLE. WE BOUGHT THE TIMBER OFF OF A TEST PLOT --

18 GLORIA MARSHALL: IT WAS VERY SPARSE.

19 CULLEN THOMAS: VERY SPARSE, NO OLD GROWTH TIMBER  
20 THERE, VERY, VERY LITTLE. THE FACT THAT WE BOUGHT IT, WE  
21 LOST MONEY ON IT, BECAUSE WE HAD TO HAVE IT CUT, WE HAD TO  
22 STORE IT, AND WE SOLD IT, AND WE LOST MONEY ON IT. IT'S NOT  
23 A PROFITABLE DEAL. WE HOPE TO BREAK EVEN.

24 [ UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: MY SECOND QUESTION, IN  
25 REFERENCE TO THE DIVERSION FROM THE CREEK, HOW MANY GALLONS  
26 PER DAY DO YOU PLAN ON DIVERTING? ] [ C

27 CULLEN THOMAS: ONE HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND A DAY.

28 [ UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: THAT'S WHAT I WAS WONDERING.

1 THAT'S A LOT OF WATER. I HAVE A PERMIT ON SALYER (PHONETIC)  
2 CREEK FOR WATER, AND I'M ONLY ALLOWED TO TAKE TEN THOUSAND  
3 GALLONS A DAY. ] C

4 CULLEN THOMAS: I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR OPERATION IS.

5 ] UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: AND THEY THINK THAT'S A LOT.  
6 IT'S JUST FOR IRRIGATION PERMIT. ] D

7 CULLEN THOMAS: IT DEPENDS ON TWO THINGS. ONE, HOW  
8 BIG YOUR CREEK IS. ONE OF THE THINGS THEY DISCUSS IS, WELL,  
9 IS IT GOING TO DAMAGE THE AMOUNT OF WATER GOING DOWN THE  
10 CREEK? NO, YOU CAN'T EVEN TELL.

11 ] UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: HOW ABOUT SUMMERTIME? ] E

12 CULLEN THOMAS: SUMMERTIME, NO, IT'S A BIG CREEK.

13 ] UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE FLOW IS  
14 FOR THE CREEK IN THE SUMMER? ] F

15 CULLEN THOMAS: I WILL SAY THIS: IT'S APPROXIMATELY  
16 10 TO 15 FEET WIDE. NOW, ARE YOU GOING TO MISS A THREE-INCH  
17 STREAM?

18 GLORIA MARSHALL: EQUATE IT TO A SWIMMING POOL.

19 JAN FORD: YOU ASKED THE QUESTION, YOU GOT THE  
20 ANSWER. LET'S MOVE ON.

21 YOU'RE NEXT.

22 ] UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: YOU MENTIONED THAT YOU'RE  
23 GOING TO TRUCK THE ORE AWAY FROM YOUR MINING OPERATION TO  
24 HAVE IT PROCESSED ON YOUR OTHER MINE. ] A

25 CULLEN THOMAS: YES.

26 ] UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: WHERE IS THAT LOCATED? ] A

27 CULLEN THOMAS: IT'S ON THE MAP. HAVE YOU GOT THE  
28 MAP? WHERE IT SAYS "MINING AREA," THAT'S OUR PRIVATE

1 PROPERTY.

2 [ UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: SO YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE  
3 USING ANY OF THE COUNTY ROADS OR THE -- ] B

4 CULLEN THOMAS: NO. IT'S ALL PRIVATE ROADS.

5 [ UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: BUT AS FAR AS -- YOU'VE GOT  
6 TO GET EQUIPMENT UP AND DOWN. SO YOU'RE GOING TO BE USING  
7 THE CANYON CREEK ROAD? ] B

8 CULLEN THOMAS: THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN KEEP FROM IT.

9 [ UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: AND THE LOGGING TRUCKS AS  
10 WELL WILL BE UP AND DOWN THAT ROAD? ] B

11 GLORIA MARSHALL: AREA FOUR WILL BE THE ONLY AREA  
12 THAT ANYTHING IS TRUCKED ON CANYON CREEK ROAD.

13 CULLEN THOMAS: WELL, YES, BUT THE TIMBER WILL HAVE  
14 TO BE TRUCKED ON CANYON CREEK. IT WILL HAVE TO BE TRUCKED ON  
15 OUR PRIVATE PROPERTY TOO.

16 GLORIA MARSHALL: WE BUILT THE ROADS INTO THE  
17 PRIVATE PROPERTY AND MAINTAINED ALL OF THIS ENTIRE AREA, FROM  
18 CANYON CREEK ROAD ALL THE WAY IN.

19 [ UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: AND CANYON CREEK IS YOUR ONLY  
20 ACCESS IN AND OUT? ] B

21 CULLEN THOMAS: YES, SIR.

22 GLORIA MARSHALL: ONE WAY IN AND ONE WAY OUT. AND  
23 WE BUILT THE ROADS FROM THE EDGE OF THE BLUE THERE, AND WE  
24 MAINTAINED THEM ALL THE WAY FROM CANYON CREEK ROAD, ALL THE  
25 WAY DOWN.

26 CULLEN THOMAS: WE HAVE A PRIVATE BRIDGE ACROSS EAST  
27 FORK, AND TO MAINTAIN THAT PRIVATE -- IT COST US OVER TEN  
28 THOUSAND BUCKS TO PUT THE BRIDGE UP TO SNUFF, SO WE CAN COME

1 IN. SO IT'S NOT AN INEXPENSIVE THING, AND WE DON'T WANT  
2 LOGGING TRUCKS TEARING IT UP.

3 [ UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: MY OTHER QUESTION IS, HOW  
4 MUCH NOISE FROM THIS AREA OF OPERATION TWO IS GOING TO CARRY  
5 DOWN INTO THE CANYON CREEK? ] [ C ]

6 CULLEN THOMAS: OFF OF AREA FOUR?

7 [ UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: AREA TWO, WHERE YOU SAID YOUR  
8 MINING OPERATION IS GOING TO BE WITH THE CONVEYOR BELTS. ] [ C ]

9 CULLEN THOMAS: NONE OF IT WILL BE CARRIED DOWN  
10 CANYON CREEK.

11 [ UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: THE SOUND. ] [ C ]

12 CULLEN MARSHALL: OH, MY, HOW BIG IS A SOUND FROM  
13 A -- WE'LL HAVE ABOUT -- I THINK IT'S ABOUT 100, 150 KW  
14 GENERATOR. THAT WILL BE ESSENTIALLY THE ONLY SOUND YOU HEAR.

15 [ UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: RUNNING ALL THE TIME? ] [ C ]

16 CULLEN MARSHALL: RUNNING WHILE WE'RE OPERATING.

17 GLORIA MARSHALL: DURING THE DAYLIGHT HOURS. WE GO  
18 TO CHURCH ON SATURDAY, AND SATURDAYS WE DON'T OPERATE  
19 USUALLY.

20 [ UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'M JUST WONDERING IF IT WILL  
21 BE HEARD IN THE WILDERNESS. IF YOU'RE IN THE ADJACENT  
22 WILDERNESS AREA, WILL YOU BE ABLE TO HEAR THAT? ] [ C ]

23 JAN FORD: THAT'S PROBABLY A QUESTION THAT WILL HAVE  
24 TO BE ANSWERED DURING THE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION  
25 PROCESS.

26 [ UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: HAVE ALL THE RESIDENTS IN  
27 THAT AREA BEEN NOTIFIED OF THIS OPERATION? ] [ D ]

28 JAN FORD: I COULDN'T TELL YOU.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: AND IF THEY'RE HERE TO SPEAK  
2 ABOUT THE NOISE -- ARE THEY HERE? E

3 CULLEN THOMAS: WELL, SOME OF THEM CAN. WHISKERS IS  
4 HERE.

5 JAN FORD: FOREST SERVICE.

6 LARRY MCLEAN: BASICALLY THREE MILES DOWN THE --

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: WEREN'T THERE 12 PEOPLE  
8 LIVING IN GRASSHOPPER FLAT? GRASSHOPPER FLAT LOOKS LIKE IT'S  
9 JUST RIGHT THERE. F

10 GLORIA MARSHALL: IT'S THREE-QUARTERS OF A MILE  
11 AWAY, AND WE HAVE NOT HAD PEOPLE COMPLAIN, NEVER HAD ANY  
12 COMPLAINTS WHATSOEVER.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: ARE YOU BUYING YOUR FUEL  
14 LOCALLY? A

15 JAN FORD: HOLD ON JUST A SECOND. WE HAVE ONE MORE  
16 QUESTION, THEN I'D LIKE TO GET TO THE COMMENTS. ONE MORE  
17 QUESTION HERE.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'D LIKE TO KNOW ABOUT HOW  
19 MUCH TRAFFIC IS GOING TO BE ON CANYON CREEK DAILY, FROM THE  
20 MINE TO THE ROAD. G

21 CULLEN THOMAS: I'LL TELL YOU WHAT --

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: BECAUSE IT GOES THROUGH MY  
23 PROPERTY. G

24 CULLEN THOMAS: HAVE YOU BEEN THERE?

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I LIVE ON IT. CANYON CREEK  
26 GOES THROUGH MY PROPERTY, AND THE ROAD GOES THROUGH MY  
27 PROPERTY. SO YEAH, I'M ON IT. G

28 GLORIA MARSHALL: NO MORE THAN WHAT YOU HAVE TODAY,

1 PROBABLY.

2 CULLEN THOMAS: PROBABLY NO MORE THAN WHAT YOU HAVE  
3 TODAY.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: HOW COULD IT BE NO MORE? ] G

5 GLORIA MARSHALL: BECAUSE I'M ONE OF THE OPERATORS,  
6 AND HE AND I ARE THE PRINCIPALS --

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: BUT --

8 JAN FORD: PLEASE LET THEM ANSWER.

9 CULLEN THOMAS: IT TAKES THREE MEN TO OPERATE THIS  
10 PLANT.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: THAT'S ALL?

12 CULLEN THOMAS: THAT'S ALL. AND THE OTHER THING IS,  
13 WE'VE GOT THREE MEN COMING BACK AND FORTH NOW.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: AND THAT WAS MY OTHER  
15 QUESTION. THERE ARE ONLY THREE MEN. ARE WE GOING TO HAVE  
16 THREE MORE JOBS IN TRINITY COUNTY FROM THIS? ] I

17 CULLEN THOMAS: WE HAVE SUPPORTED TRINITY COUNTY  
18 PRETTY DOGGONE HEAVY.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: AND ALSO, WHERE ELSE HAVE YOU  
20 DONE STUFF? HAVE YOU GOT SOME KIND OF REFERENCES WHERE ELSE  
21 YOU'VE DONE STUFF AND PUT IT BACK BEAUTIFULLY?

22 GLORIA MARSHALL: SIX YEARS HERE, MY DEAR.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: WHERE ELSE HAVE YOU DONE --

24 GLORIA MARSHALL: IN TEXAS.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: IN TEXAS?

26 GLORIA MARSHALL: MY HOME OF 32 YEARS IN TEXAS.

27 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: WHERE IS THAT?

28 GLORIA MARSHALL: BRYAN, TEXAS, WHERE TEXAS A&M IS.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: WHAT PROJECTS DID YOU DO  
2 THERE? ] J

3 GLORIA MARSHALL: WE HAVE HAD A LOT OF OIL WELLS  
4 DRILLED AND DEVELOPMENT THERE, AND WE HAVE NOT HAD ANY  
5 COMPLAINTS ABOUT ANYTHING WE'VE DONE THERE, 18 YEARS.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: AND YOU'VE HAD THIS KIND OF  
7 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENT FOR A LONG TIME? ] K

8 GLORIA MARSHALL: THE OIL --

9 CULLEN THOMAS: DID YOU EVER OPERATE IN CANADA?

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: HAVE I EVER OPERATED IN  
11 CANADA?

12 CULLEN THOMAS: YES, MA'AM.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: YES, I HAVE, ACTUALLY.

14 CULLEN THOMAS: YOU MAY KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT SOME OF  
15 THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS. SOME ARE LOOSE AS CAN BE,  
16 OTHERS ARE TOUGH. THE OIL BUSINESS IS TOUGH. THEY MAKE YOU  
17 DO THINGS OUTSIDE. BUT ANYWAY, WE'RE USED TO LIVING WITH  
18 REGULATIONS. WE WILL ABIDE BY WHAT THEY SAY. WE DON'T  
19 INTEND TO DESTROY THE ENVIRONMENT, NOR DO WE INTEND TO LEAVE  
20 IT IN LESS SHAPE THAN AS PRETTY AS CAN BE.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: THAT'S GOOD. I JUST WANT TO  
22 KNOW WHERE YOU HAD ACTUALLY DONE SOMETHING BEFORE AND LEFT IT  
23 IN GOOD SHAPE. I UNDERSTAND YOU BELIEVE THAT. I'M JUST  
24 WONDERING WHAT YOUR REFERENCES ARE. ] L

25 GLORIA MARSHALL: THAT'S FINE. WE HAVE NO PROBLEM  
26 WITH THAT.

27 JUST WANTED TO EQUATE YOUR CONCERN ABOUT 180,000  
28 GALLONS OF WATER. DOES ANYBODY HERE HAVE A SWIMMING POOL?

1 HOW MANY GALLONS DO YOU HAVE IN THAT SWIMMING POOL?  
2 JIM DEMAAGD: ABOUT THIRTEEN THOUSAND.  
3 GLORIA MARSHALL: THIRTEEN TO 20,000 GALLONS IS A  
4 NORMAL SWIMMING POOL. YOU THINK, AND THAT'S NOT A WHOLE LOT  
5 OF WATER REALLY. THINK ABOUT THAT. BUT WHEN YOU'RE WETTING  
6 DIRT, THAT'S NOT A LOT OF WATER. SO BASICALLY I'M TRYING TO  
7 GET YOU TO EQUATE IT. WITHOUT FATHOMING SOMETHING THAT YOU  
8 CAN VISUALIZE, IT'S HARD TO UNDERSTAND THAT, HEY, YOU'RE NOT  
9 GOING TO HAVE THAT MUCH RUNOFF, BECAUSE WE HAVE AN OPERATION  
10 ON OUR PROPERTY RIGHT NOW.  
11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: THE OTHER THING I'M THINKING  
12 ABOUT IN TERMS OF RUNOFF, BECAUSE I KNOW WHEN THEY LOGGED UP  
13 THERE, THE CREEK WAS MUDDY FOR A LONG TIME, JUST FROM THE  
14 RAIN, FROM THE WASHOFF. M  
15 GLORIA MARSHALL: WHO LOGGED?  
16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I DON'T KNOW WHO LOGGED.  
17 CULLEN THOMAS: IN '95, YES. IN '95, WHEN THEY  
18 LOGGED THE PROPERTY WE BOUGHT, YES, I CAN IMAGINE.  
19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: THE CREEK WAS JUST MUDDY FOR  
20 ABOUT TWO YEARS. M  
21 CULLEN THOMAS: WE'VE BEEN OPERATING UP THERE FOR  
22 SIX YEARS. WE'VE BEEN OPERATING --  
23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'M WONDERING WHAT KIND OF  
24 PROTECTION WE'RE GOING TO HAVE JUST FOR THE FACT OF THE LAND  
25 IS BEING CLEARED AND THE RUNOFF FROM THE RAIN. I KNOW THAT  
26 WAS A BIG PROBLEM THAT WE HAD WHEN IT WAS LOGGED IN '95. M  
27 GLORIA MARSHALL: WELL, '95, ON THIS PARTICULAR  
28 PIECE OF PROPERTY, I CAN'T TELL YOU WHAT IT WAS. I CAN TELL

1 YOU WHAT I THINK IT PROBABLY LOOKED LIKE, BECAUSE THERE WAS  
2 NO GOVERNMENTAL BODIES THAT TOOK CARE OF THE ADEQUATE RUNOFF  
3 AT THAT POINT IN TIME WHEN THEY LOGGED. IT MIGHT HAVE  
4 BEEN -- MIGHT HAVE BEEN SOME THINGS DONE THAT SHOULDN'T HAVE  
5 BEEN DONE. BUT THE FOREST SERVICE OR WHOEVER -- BECAUSE THIS  
6 IS PRIVATE PROPERTY, THE PRIVATE PROPERTY THAT WE OWN. I  
7 CAN'T TELL YOU BEFORE '98 WHAT --

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: NO. I'M ASKING WHAT YOU'RE  
9 GOING TO DO IN THE FUTURE. IS THAT WHAT YOU WERE SAYING -- N

10 GLORIA MARSHALL: IT DOESN'T SLOPE, LIKE OUR  
11 PROPERTY. IT DOESN'T HAVE THE SLOPING FACTOR. WE HAVE THE  
12 CANYON.

13 CULLEN, YOU TELL THEM.

14 CULLEN THOMAS: LET'S BACK UP, GO TO PAGE 12. PAGE  
15 12, PONDS. EACH POND WILL BE APPROXIMATELY 130 FEET LONG AND  
16 70 FEET WIDE AND EIGHT FEET DEEP. IT WILL CONTAIN 415,000  
17 GALLONS. THE CAPACITY: 831,114 GALLONS.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THE  
19 PONDS. I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT THE PONDS. I THINK YOU ALREADY  
20 ANSWERED THE PONDS. I'M TALKING ABOUT JUST CLEARING THE  
21 LAND, JUST LOGGING THE LAND. THEN WHEN IT RAINS, THERE IS  
22 RUNOFF. N M

23 CULLEN THOMAS: MA'AM, YOU WERE THERE WHEN WE HAD TO  
24 TEST.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: YES.

26 CULLEN THOMAS: DID YOU SEE ANY DIFFERENCE IN THE  
27 CREEK?

28 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: YES.

1 CULLEN THOMAS: IT WASN'T FROM US, BECAUSE WE DIDN'T  
2 DISTURB THE CREEK AT ALL.

3 GLORIA MARSHALL: THERE WAS DREDGING GOING ON IN  
4 JULY, AND THERE WERE PEOPLE COMPLAINED AND SAID IT WAS US,  
5 AND WE WERE --

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I DON'T KNOW WHO IT WAS. I'M  
7 JUST WORRIED ABOUT THE QUALITY OF THE WATER. M

8 GLORIA MARSHALL: WE'RE JUST TRYING TO CLARIFY.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: WHAT ARE THE SAFEGUARDS IN  
10 PLACE FOR THE RUNOFF ISSUES? M

11 JAN FORD: THOSE ARE PROBABLY GOING TO BE  
12 ESTABLISHED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FOREST SERVICE. AGAIN,  
13 IT'S PART OF THE ANALYSIS PROCESS. IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT'S  
14 VERY EXPLICIT IN THE PLAN RIGHT NOW, I THINK.

15 SO IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU FOLKS -- I DON'T WANT TO  
16 RUSH THROUGH THIS, BUT IF YOU UNDERSTAND THE PLAN WELL  
17 ENOUGH, I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE EVERYBODY A CHANCE TO COMMENT.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I HAVE ONE MORE QUESTION,  
19 JUST A LITTLE QUESTION.

20 SO THE MINE YOU'VE BEEN OPERATING FOR SIX YEARS, IS  
21 IT AN OPERATION THAT'S KIND OF EQUAL IN SIZE TO THE FIVE-ACRE  
22 PATCHES THAT YOU'RE PLANNING, OR IS IT SMALLER? O

23 CULLEN THOMAS: IT'S VERY SIMILAR. WE DON'T HAVE AS  
24 MANY AREAS, BUT THE AREA WE'RE MINING IS EQUIVALENT TO THE  
25 FIVE ACRES.

26 GLORIA MARSHALL: SHE'S ASKING, I THINK, ABOUT THE  
27 PLANT SIZE ITSELF AND THE AREA.

28 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: HOW MANY MACHINES AND HOW

1 MUCH ACTIVITY. ] P

2 CULLEN THOMAS: VERY SIMILAR TO THIS. WE'VE GOT A  
3 TROMMEL RATHER THAN A WASH PLANT, AND WE'VE GOT PONDS OF THE  
4 SAME SIZE AND SAME AMOUNT. WE'RE ALSO FLOWING THE SAME  
5 AMOUNT OF THE WATER OUT OF CANYON CREEK, WHERE THE FISH AND  
6 GAME AND CLEAN WATER PEOPLE PERMITTED.

7 [ UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: IS IT GOING TO KEEP GOING? ] Q  
8 IS THE ONE GOING NOW GOING TO KEEP GOING AT THE SAME TIME?

9 CULLEN THOMAS: YES, MA'AM, AND YOU WILL NEVER KNOW  
10 WE'RE TAKING WATER OUT.

11 [ UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: SO YOU'LL HAVE BOTH PLANTS IN  
12 OPERATION? ] Q

13 CULLEN THOMAS: WITH THE GOOD LORD'S WILL AND THE  
14 GOOD CREEK'S RISE.

15 JAN FORD: WHAT I'D LIKE TO DO IS PROVIDE AN  
16 OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERYONE TO SPEAK. IF YOU DON'T WANT TO,  
17 THAT'S FINE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO. IF YOU PREFER TO SEND A  
18 WRITTEN COMMENT IN, THAT'S GOOD TOO.

19 COMMENTS: IT WOULD BE HELPFUL, BEFORE YOU SPEAK, IF  
20 YOU SAY YOUR NAME CLEARLY, SO DARLENE CAN CATCH IT. AND  
21 ALSO, IF YOU REPRESENT ANY GROUP, THAT WILL BE NICE TO LET US  
22 KNOW. YOU CAN DIRECT YOUR COMMENTS TO THE FOREST SERVICE, TO  
23 THE PROPONENTS, OR TO THE AIR, IF YOU'D LIKE, OR WHOEVER.  
24 JUST KNOW THAT THEY WILL BE CAPTURED, AND THEY WILL BE  
25 CONSIDERED PART OF THE PERMANENT RECORD FOR THIS PROJECT.  
26 AND IT MAY BE THAT YOU WANT TO TALK HERE AND SEND IN WRITTEN  
27 COMMENTS. THAT'S PERFECTLY GOOD AS WELL.

28 BECAUSE OF THE TIME SITUATION, I'M GOING TO LOOK AT

1 FOUR MINUTES PER PERSON. I'LL TIME IT, AND IF WE HAVE TIME  
2 AT THE END, IF FOLKS WANT TO ADD TO IT, THEY CAN. ALSO,  
3 THERE IS NO PROBLEM WITH HAVING PERSONAL CONVERSATIONS WITH  
4 THE PROPONENTS AT A LATER DATE. IF YOU HAVE MORE QUESTIONS,  
5 I THINK THEY'D WELCOME YOUR INTEREST. I KNOW THAT GLORIA HAS  
6 SAID SHE'D BE HAPPY TO SHOW FOLKS AROUND. AND THE FOREST  
7 SERVICE FOLKS ARE HERE IN TOWN. YOU CAN CHAT WITH THEM AS  
8 WELL.

9 I THINK WHAT I'LL DO IS I'LL JUST GO IN ORDER, AND  
10 IF YOU WANT TO SPEAK, GREAT. IF NOT, PASS. IF YOU PASS AND  
11 WANT TO SPEAK LATER, WE CAN DO THAT TOO.

12 DAVID RYE: CAN WE START AT THE BACK, THEN?

13 JAN FORD: NOT A PROBLEM.

14 DAVID RYE: CAN I GO FIRST?

15 JAN FORD: NAME?

16 DAVID RYE: MY NAME IS DAVID RYE.

17 JAN FORD: WHAT WAS --

18 DAVID RYE: R-Y-E.

19 JAN FORD: THANK YOU.

20 DAVID RYE: I LIVE UP CANYON CREEK. A LOT OF TALK I  
21 HEARD, A LOT OF CHANGES PEOPLE ARE WORRIED ABOUT THE PROGRAM  
22 UP THERE IS ABOUT THE BOND, AND ABOUT IF IT'S A CORPORATION,  
23 WHO IS RESPONSIBLE IF SOMETHING HAPPENS? IF IT'S A  
24 CORPORATION, WHO'S GOING TO CLEAN UP THE MESS? AND THIS  
25 IS -- THIS IS NOT FROM ME PERSONALLY. THIS IS THE PEOPLE  
26 THAT I HEAR TALKING DOWN AT THE STORE. AND PEOPLE ARE  
27 WORRIED ABOUT IT BECAUSE WE'VE HAD THIS HAPPEN ONCE BEFORE UP  
28 HERE, AND OUR CREEK RUN RED FOR A YEAR. ] A

1 CULLEN THOMAS: CAN I ANSWER THAT?

2 JAN FORD: LET'S GIVE HIM HIS TIME.

3 [ DAVID RYE: AND WHAT HAPPENED IS THE LITTLE MINERS  
4 GET KICKED IN THE BUTT FOR ABOUT 10 YEARS FROM ALL OF  
5 EVERYBODY AROUND HERE, ALL OF US LOCALS CAN GET KICKED.

6 ANYWAY, THAT'S THE ONLY COMMENT I WANTED TO MAKE. ] B

7 JAN FORD: OKAY. THEN, CULLEN, WOULD YOU LIKE TO  
8 RESPOND?

9 CULLEN THOMAS: I'LL BE GLAD TO.

10 WHISKERS, THE WAY THIS THING WORKS IS THAT SOMEONE,  
11 NOT INCLUDING US, WILL SET A LIMIT -- WE'LL WORK WITH THEM --  
12 ON THE AMOUNT OF BOND WE HAVE TO PUT UP. AND THE BOND IS IN  
13 THE ORDER OF A CD OR A LETTER OF CREDIT, AND IT STANDS THERE  
14 AS LONG AS WE OPERATE. CURRENTLY WE HAVE A \$2,000, IF I'M  
15 NOT MISTAKEN, BOND ON THIS AREA NOW THAT WE'RE NOT EVEN  
16 OPERATING.

17 GLORIA MARSHALL: IT'S BEEN THERE SINCE THE DAY WE  
18 BOUGHT IT. WE COULD HAVE WITHDRAWN IT, BUT WE LEFT IT.

19 CULLEN THOMAS: AND THE BOND, IN CASE WE LEAVE AND  
20 GO, THE BOND WILL BE PULLED DOWN AND IT WILL RESTORE THE  
21 PROPERTY. SO YOU HAVE NO PROBLEMS WITH IT NOT BEING  
22 RESTORED, OKAY?

23 [ DAVID RYE: BUT THAT'S NOT MY POINT.

24 CULLEN THOMAS: TELL ME YOUR POINT.

25 DAVID RYE: MY POINT IS, I PUT 150 BOND AT -- WE'RE  
26 TALKING ABOUT 150, 250 THOUSAND DOLLAR OPERATION, AND IF  
27 SOMETHING CAN GO TO HELL, IT CAN GO TO HELL IN A BIG WAY, AND  
28 THE PEOPLE DOWN THE CREEK, WE'RE GOING TO CATCH THE BRUNT OF

1 IT. AND IF THE CORPORATION -- YOU AND I BOTH KNOW AN  
2 INDIVIDUAL AND A CORPORATION ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS. IF A  
3 CORPORATION IS SUED AND THERE AIN'T NOTHING IN IT, THERE  
4 AIN'T NOTHING IN IT; NOBODY IS HELD RESPONSIBLE. WHERE I, AS  
5 AN INDIVIDUAL, AM HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR MY OWN DEEDS. AND  
6 THAT'S WHAT THE TALK THAT I'M HEARING DOWN THERE AT THE  
7 STORE, WHEN WE ALL GATHER TO SWAP LIES AND TALK BULLSHIT.

8 NOW, THAT'S WHAT THE PEOPLE ARE SAYING. SO I'M JUST  
9 PASSING THE WORD ALONG. [C]

10 CULLEN THOMAS: NUMBER ONE IS, I DON'T KNOW WHAT OUR  
11 BOND WILL BE, BUT I HOPE IT'S NOT EXCESSIVE. BUT I'LL TELL  
12 YOU ONE THING THEY'LL DO. THEY'LL LOOK AT THE CURRENT PRICES  
13 OF RUNNING A CAT AND DOZER AND CLEANING IT UP, RESTORING IT,  
14 AND WE'LL PUT EVERY NICKEL INTO THAT BOND.

15 DAVID RYE: I KNOW YOU WILL.

16 CULLEN THOMAS: AND IT WILL BE DRAWN DOWN IF WE  
17 LEAVE. AND IT WON'T BE DRAWN DOWN UNTIL -- WE CAN'T GET OUR  
18 MONEY BACK, OR CD'S BACK, OR LETTER OF CREDIT BACK UNTIL IT'S  
19 RESTORED. IF WE DON'T DO IT, THEY'LL PULL THE BOND DOWN AND  
20 RESTORE IT FOR US.

21 [DAVID RYE: THERE ARE ABOUT FORTY PEOPLE DOWN AT THE  
22 STORE, THAT'S NOT HERE TONIGHT, THAT ASKED ME TO ASK YOU  
23 GUYS. BECAUSE IN CONSTRUCTION, WE HAVE TO POST A BOND AND WE  
24 HAVE TO PAY CASH, 10 PERCENT OF THAT BOND. AND IF WE'RE  
25 DOING A MILLION DOLLAR JOB, WE HAVE TO POST 10 PERCENT OF  
26 THAT. SO THAT WOULD BE \$100,000, AND -- [C]

27 GLORIA MARSHALL: I REALLY WANT HIM TO --

28 JAN FORD: YOU'VE GOT YOUR TIME.

1           GLORIA MARSHALL: I WANT TO ANSWER. THERE'S DOLLAR  
2 FOR DOLLAR IN THE BANK TODAY. IT'S NOT TEN PERCENT.

3           CULLEN THOMAS: IT'S 100 PERCENT OF THE COST OF THE  
4 RESTORATION. THE EQUIPMENT WE HAVE, THAT'S ONE THING; THAT  
5 IS DIFFERENT. BUT THE COST OF RESTORATION, MEANING RESTORING  
6 THE PROPERTY TO ITS ORIGINAL CONTOUR APPROXIMATELY, CLEANING  
7 IT UP, GETTING RID OF ALL THE TRASH, HAULING OFF ALL THE JUNK  
8 WE MIGHT LEAVE, AND EVERYTHING ELSE, THAT'S ALL COVERED IN  
9 THE BOND 100 PERCENT. AND THAT BOND IS PUT UP, AND IT WILL  
10 NOT BE DRAWN DOWN UNTIL WE EITHER CLEAN IT UP OR THEY PULL  
11 THE BOND DOWN AND CLEAN IT. OKAY?

12           DAVID RYE: THANK YOU.

13           JAN FORD: NOW YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE. IF I HAD  
14 KNOWN THAT, YOU WOULD HAVE GONE LAST.

15           DAVID RYE: STIRRED THE POT UP. NOW I'M LEAVING YOU  
16 GUYS. DON'T LET THE BEANS BURN.

17           JAN FORD: NEXT, IN THE BACK, YOU HAVE A COMMENT YOU  
18 WANTED TO MAKE?

19           [MATT LEFFLER: MATT LEFFLER. I'VE LIVED ON CANYON  
20 CREEK 24 YEARS. MY ONLY COMMENT IS THAT, AS A LONG-TERM  
21 RESIDENT -- AND I THINK OTHER LONG-TERM RESIDENTS MOSTLY  
22 AGREE -- THAT WE HAVE NOT BEEN IMPRESSED WITH THE FOREST  
23 SERVICE'S DEFINITION OF RESTORATION AND RECLAMATION. FOR  
24 INSTANCE, THE OPERATION OF DEDRICK, WE DON'T LOOK AT IT AS  
25 BEING RECLAIMED. IT'S A MESS.] A

26           [MY OTHER COMMENT -- AND MAYBE A QUESTION -- IS TO  
27 FOREST SERVICE. TO WHAT LEVEL WILL PUBLIC ACCESS BE  
28 RESTRICTED TO THESE AREAS DURING THE OPERATION?] B

1                   JAN FORD: IS THAT SOMETHING THAT WOULD BE  
2 DEVELOPED?

3                   JOYCE ANDERSEN: I DON'T HAVE AN ANSWER TO THAT  
4 RIGHT NOW.

5                   CULLEN THOMAS: I CAN ANSWER THAT. AS FAR AS I'M  
6 CONCERNED, YOU'VE GOT ALL THE ACCESS TO THE PUBLIC ROADS AND  
7 FOREST SERVICE ROADS THAT YOU HAVE TODAY. BUT ACCESS TO OUR  
8 MINING PROPERTY, HUH-UH. WE CAN'T LET YOU IN IF WE WANT.

9                   GLORIA MARSHALL: BECAUSE OF THE LIABILITY FACTOR.

10                  CULLEN THOMAS: WE DON'T WANT THE LIABILITY.  
11 SOMEBODY GET IN THERE AND GET BROKE DOWN OR HAVE A WRECK OR  
12 BREAK AN ARM, WE'D BE SUED FOREVER.

13                  GLORIA MARSHALL: IT'S LIKE WHEN YOU TAKE A CAR TO  
14 GET IT MECHANICALLY WORKED ON. THEY WON'T LET YOU STAND  
15 THERE IN THE GARAGE AND WATCH.

16                  CULLEN THOMAS: YOU WON'T HAVE ACCESS TO OUR MINING  
17 PROJECT. BUT ACCESS TO THE ROAD.

18                  [MATT LEFFLER: MINING OPERATION OR NOT, I'M TALKING  
19 ABOUT PUBLIC LAND.] [B]

20                  CULLEN THOMAS: PUBLIC LAND, YOU'VE GOT ALL ACCESS,  
21 EXCEPT TRINITY 1-8, WHERE WE'RE MINING. YOU WILL NOT HAVE  
22 ACCESS THERE, BECAUSE THAT'S OUR PROPERTY AND IT'S OURS TO  
23 OPERATE.

24                  [MATT LEFFLER: YOU MEAN THE PRIVATE PROPERTY.] [C]

25                  CULLEN THOMAS: PRIVATE PROPERTY, AND ALSO THE  
26 MINING OPERATION WE HAVE ON THE TRINITY 1-8.

27                  [MATT LEFFLER: THAT'S NOT PRIVATE PROPERTY.] [C]

28                  CULLEN THOMAS: THAT'S ALL OF OUR PROPERTY.

1 JIM DEMAAGD: THERE ARE RULES FOR MINING OPERATIONS.  
2 IN THE AREA WHERE THE CLAIMANTS WILL BE WORKING, THE DIRECT  
3 AREAS WHERE THEY'LL BE WORKING, THEY CAN RESTRICT ACCESS, BUT  
4 THEY CAN'T POST NO TRESPASSING. THEY CAN'T RESTRICT FROM YOU  
5 AREAS THEY'RE NOT MINING. BUT FOR LIABILITY ISSUES, THEY CAN  
6 RESTRICT ACCESS IN THE MINIMUM SITE AREA, MAYBE SOME OF THEIR  
7 HAULAGE ROADS THAT AREN'T PART OF THE FOREST SYSTEM ROADS.

8 I THINK THE ROADS YOU GUYS ARE GOING TO USE -- I'M  
9 ASSUMING THE ROAD PEOPLE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT IS THE ONE THAT  
10 GOES UP TO THE GOLDEN RIDGE TRAIL HEAD. AT THIS POINT I  
11 DON'T THINK THAT'S GOING TO BE RESTRICTED.

12 GLORIA MARSHALL: NOT THAT WE'RE AWARE OF, NOT THAT  
13 WE PLAN.

14 MATT LEFFLER: THIS IS ROAD ACCESS TO A TRAIL HEAD,  
15 AND YOU'RE GOING TO RESTRICT IT? D

16 CULLEN THOMAS: NO. LET ME ANSWER THIS. THERE'S A  
17 FOREST SERVICE GATE THAT THE FOREST SERVICE REQUIRES IS  
18 LOCKED FROM APRIL --

19 GLORIA MARSHALL: OCTOBER TO MAY.

20 CULLEN THOMAS: WE HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH IT. THE  
21 FOREST SERVICE LOCKS IT. THE REASON IS FOR YOUR OWN  
22 PROTECTION, BECAUSE THEY DON'T WANT SOMEBODY UP THERE AT THE  
23 TRAIL HEAD GETTING STUCK IN A SNOWSTORM AND NOT KNOWING  
24 THEY'RE UP THERE. BUT FROM APRIL TO OCTOBER, I THINK IT  
25 IS --

26 GLORIA MARSHALL: MAY 1ST TO OCTOBER 31ST.

27 CULLEN THOMAS: IT'S OPEN. IT'S OPEN TODAY. IT  
28 WILL BE OPEN THE ENTIRE TIME. BUT THERE IS ANOTHER GATE

1 LOCKED GOING TO OUR PRIVATE PROPERTY. THAT'S DIFFERENT.  
2 THAT'S OUR PRIVATE PROPERTY. BUT AS FAR AS ANYTHING ELSE IS  
3 CONCERNED, YOU HAVE EVERY ACCESS TO THE FOREST SERVICE AND TO  
4 ANY OF THE PUBLIC LANDS, EXCEPT WHERE WE'RE OPERATING THE  
5 GOLD MINE. WE'VE GOT HEAVY EQUIPMENT IN THERE. WE DON'T  
6 WANT PEOPLE RUNNING ALL OVER AND GETTING HURT.

7 JAN FORD: MR. LEFFLER, DID YOU GET YOUR QUESTION  
8 ANSWERED?

9 MATT LEFFLER: YES.

10 [CHRISTINE LEFFLER: CHRISTINE LEFFLER. A COMMENT  
11 AND A QUESTION TO THE FOREST SERVICE. IS THIS MEETING  
12 REQUIRED BY LAW? ] A

13 JOYCE ANDERSEN: IT IS OPTIONAL.

14 [CHRISTINE LEFFLER: OKAY. ALSO, IF EVERY PERSON IN  
15 THIS ROOM OR EVERY LETTER YOU RECEIVED IS DIAMETRICALLY  
16 OPPOSED TO THIS OPERATION, IT IS MY -- I THINK -- MY  
17 UNDERSTANDING, BECAUSE OF THE MINING LAWS OF 1871, OR  
18 WHATEVER IT IS, ARE STILL IN PLAY, THAT NO MATTER WHAT WE  
19 SAY, IF THEY ARE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THIS RULE FROM 1871 AND  
20 THE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY THAT IS DONE, IF THEY SAY THIS IS  
21 FINE, THEN IT GOES. IS THAT BASICALLY -- ] A

22 JIM DEMAAGD: YOU MISSED THE BEGINNING OF THE TALK.  
23 I GAVE A DISCUSSION ABOUT LOCATABLE MINERALS, WHICH IS WHAT  
24 THIS IS. IT'S A GOLD OPERATION. IT'S A NONDISCRETIONARY  
25 ACTION. THAT MEANS THAT THE DISTRICT RANGER DOES NOT HAVE  
26 THE OPTION OF DENYING THE OPERATION.

27 CHRISTINE LEFFLER: RIGHT.

28 JIM DEMAAGD: THEY CAN APPROVE A PLAN OF OPERATIONS

1 WITH TERMS AND CONDITIONS THAT ADHERE TO N.E.B.A., ANY TYPE  
2 OF RESTRICTIONS THAT MAY BE IMPOSED UPON THAT OPERATION. BUT  
3 BECAUSE THE WAY FOREST SERVICE POLICY AND NATIONAL MINERAL  
4 POLICY ACT IS WRITTEN, WE CANNOT DENY A LOCATABLE MINERAL  
5 OPERATION.

6 [CHRISTINE LEFFLER: SO THAT WOULD BE SOMETHING THAT  
7 WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED ON BY WHAT AVENUE?] A

8 JIM DEMAAGD: CONGRESS. YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO  
9 TALK TO CONGRESS.

10 CHRISTINE LEFFLER: OKAY.

11 SAM FRINK: YOU WORK WITH US. WE'LL DECIDE IN OUR  
12 N.E.B.A. PROCESS. AND YOUR CONCERNS LIKE RESTORATION, WE  
13 HEAR THAT. WE KNOW THERE HAS BEEN RESTORATION IN THE AREA  
14 THAT HAS NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN THE PAST. WHAT WE INTEND TO  
15 DO IN OUR N.E.B.A. PROCESS IS TO IDENTIFY WHAT WE THINK WE  
16 CAN DO FOR SUCCESSFUL MITIGATION. AND THAT'S SOMETHING THAT  
17 COMES OUT FROM THESE MEETINGS AND THE THINGS YOU PEOPLE THINK  
18 ARE REALLY IMPORTANT.

19 JAN FORD: DID YOU WANT TO CLARIFY SOMETHING?

20 [CHRISTINE LEFFLER: I JUST WANTED TO SEE IF THAT  
21 MEANT IT'S DIFFERENT -- SOMEONE REGULATING THEIR RESTORATION  
22 IS DIFFERENT NOW THAN IT WAS IN DEDRICK OR THE BLUE BIRD OR  
23 ANYTHING LIKE THAT.] B

24 SAM FRINK: HOPEFULLY WE LEARN FROM PAST MISTAKES.

25 LARRY MCLEAN: I'D LIKE TO ADDRESS THAT ONE. I  
26 DON'T KNOW THE COMPLETE HISTORY ON THAT, BUT I KNOW DEDRICK  
27 WAS ACTUALLY MINED PREVIOUS TO THE PROJECT YOU'RE TALKING  
28 ABOUT. SO THEY START OUT WITH A POOR SITE. I KNOW THERE

1 WERE SHORT PINES UP THERE, 15 FOOT TALL, AND THEY TOOK A LONG  
2 TIME TO GET THERE. AND THEN IT WAS MINED OVER AGAIN, WHICH  
3 YOU'RE DEALING WITH A LIMITED AMOUNT OF TOPSOIL IN THOSE  
4 PROJECTS. AND THE REST OF THEM, I'M KIND OF A LATE BLOOMER  
5 TO THIS. I'VE BEEN HERE FOR NINE YEARS WORKING ON THESE  
6 PROJECTS.

7 JAN FORD: YES, IN THE --

8 [ANDREW LIM: ANDREW FRANK LIM. I'M A JUNCTION CITY  
9 RESIDENT, AND I THINK I'D LIKE TO ECHO PARTLY WHAT MATT SAID.  
10 THE MOST RECENT PIT MINE DONE UP CANYON CREEK ROAD, AS A  
11 RECREATION AND WILDERNESS USER OF CANYON CREEK, IT WAS  
12 EXTREMELY DISTURBING TO DRIVE BY THE OPERATION. IT UPSET THE  
13 WILDERNESS AREA. IT DIDN'T BELONG ANYWHERE NEAR WILDERNESS,  
14 ESPECIALLY AN IMPORTANT TOURIST DESTINATION FOR THE COUNTY.

15 THAT SITE LOOKS AWFUL. AND TO EVEN CALL THAT  
16 RESTORATION IS VERY LOOSELY USING THE WORD. COMPARED TO WHAT  
17 THAT SITE LOOKED LIKE AND WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE NOW, IT LOOKS  
18 LIKE IT WAS MINED AND RAPED. AND IT'S GOING TO TAKE 20,  
19 30 -- I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY YEARS BEFORE THAT AREA WILL LOOK  
20 NORMAL. AND IT LOOKS NOTHING LIKE IT DID. DRIVING UP THAT  
21 ROAD AND PAST THAT AREA WAS A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT EXPERIENCE  
22 THAN WHERE THAT PIT WAS DUG AND FILLED IN. [AB

23 [AND MY OTHER COMMENT, ON PAGE 15, THE ENVIRONMENTAL  
24 PROTECTION MEASURES, UNDER "FISH AND WILDLIFE," IT SAYS TO  
25 THE BEST OF YOUR KNOWLEDGE, THERE ARE NO ENDANGERED SPECIES  
26 OF WILDLIFE IN THE GENERAL VICINITY OF THE MINE. I BELIEVE  
27 THERE ARE ENDANGERED SPECIES OF THE WILDERNESS ALL AROUND.  
28 AND I KNOW RECENTLY ELK HAVE BEEN SIGHTED IN THE CANYON CREEK

1 RIDGE. IF THERE ARE ELK IN THIS AREA, I BELIEVE THEY'RE  
2 ENDANGERED IN THIS AREA. I'D LIKE TO PUT THAT IN, THAT ELK  
3 HAVE BEEN SIGHTED IN THIS AREA.]C

4 JAN FORD: YES?

5 TERRY MULE: I HAVE A LOT TO SAY.

6 JAN FORD: WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

7 [TERRY MULE: I CAN'T BELIEVE WE CAN ALLOW SOMEONE TO  
8 COME IN, CLEAR-CUT THE AREA, AND DIG UP THE GROUND AND  
9 DESTROY AN AREA IN A VERY SCENIC -- ONE OF THE MOST SCENIC  
10 AREAS, THE MOST USED TRAIL TO THE TRINITY ALP'S AND TRINITY  
11 WILDERNESS.]A [AND TO ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN, I JUST HAVE A HARD  
12 TIME DEALING WITH IT. I'M GOING TO DO MY BEST -- I'M GOING  
13 TO GO TO HUMBOLDT COUNTY. I'M GOING TO GET THE HUMBOLDT  
14 UNIVERSITY PEOPLE. EUREKA USES THIS AREA. I'M GOING TO  
15 FIGHT IT WITH EVERY STRENGTH I HAVE. I THINK, HOW MUCH MONEY  
16 DO THESE GUYS PAY THE GOVERNMENT? WHAT MONEY DOES THE  
17 GOVERNMENT MAKE OUT OF -- ]D

18 JOYCE ANDERSEN: THIS IS NONDISCRETIONARY. WE GO  
19 THROUGH THE N.E.B.A. PROCESS. WE WILL EVALUATE THE IMPACTS,  
20 AND WE WILL PUBLICLY DISCLOSE THOSE IMPACTS.

21 [TERRY MULE: WE KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO CLEAR-CUT AND  
22 DIG THE GROUND UP. THOSE ARE PRETTY HEAVY IMPACTS.]E [THIS IS  
23 A BEAUTIFUL WILDERNESS AREA.]B [I DON'T KNOW HOW A FEW PEOPLE  
24 CAN DESTROY WILDERNESS AND MAKE MONEY. THE REST OF US HAVE  
25 TO WORRY.]E [DESTROYING THE FISHERY, THE BEAUTY AND THE SOUND  
26 AND AIR QUALITY.]G [I LIVE IN CANYON CREEK. I DON'T WANT IT TO  
27 HAPPEN, AND I'M GOING TO FIGHT YOU.]H I ]J

28 JAN FORD: WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

1 [ TERRY MULE: TERRY MULE. I'VE LIVED IN THIS AREA  
2 FOR 30 YEARS. ] K

3 JAN FORD: NEXT?

4 [ PATRICIA COMLIN: I AGREE I'M WITH HIM. MY NAME IS  
5 PATRICIA COMLIN. ] A

6 JAN FORD: COULD YOU SPELL THAT?

7 PATRICIA COMLIN: NO.

8 JAN FORD: OKAY.

9 [ PATRICIA COMLIN: AND MY CONCERNS ARE AROUND THE  
10 ECONOMIC IMPACT ON OUR TOURISTY AND OUR ECOTOURISM WE'RE  
11 TRYING TO DEVELOP AS PART OF OUR COUNTY ECONOMIC PROJECT. I  
12 THINK IT MAY HAVE A VERY NEGATIVE IMPACT ON OUR ECOTOURISM  
13 DEVELOPMENT. THAT IS A CONCERN. ] B

14 [ ALSO, AS I SAID BEFORE, I'M CONCERNED ABOUT THE  
15 POLLUTION OF CANYON CREEK MYSELF, SINCE IT'S MY WATERSHED AND  
16 MY WATER. ] C [ AND I'M ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE AMOUNT OF TRAFFIC  
17 ON CANYON CREEK ROAD, BECAUSE THAT'S A BIG IMPACT IN TERMS OF  
18 HAVING TO LISTEN TO TRUCKS AND STUFF GOING UP AND DOWN THE  
19 ROAD. ] E F

20 [ SO I ALSO WANTED TO KNOW WHAT PEOPLE WERE TALKING  
21 ABOUT RESTORATION. WHAT I HEARD OF THE RESTORATION COMMENTS  
22 WERE THAT RESTORATION MEANT LEVELING THE SURFACE AGAIN. AND  
23 I'D LIKE TO KNOW ABOUT RESTORATION OF THE FLORA AND FAUNA IN  
24 THE AREA. THAT'S ALL I HAVE TO SAY. ] G

25 JAN FORD: THANK YOU.

26 TERRY WILSON: MY NAME IS TERRY WILSON. I WAS A  
27 RECREATION USER ON CANYON CREEK FOR YEARS BEFORE WE BOUGHT  
28 PROPERTY UP THERE. [ AND I AM CONCERNED ON THE VISUAL IMPACTS

1 THAT YOUR OPERATION WOULD HAVE FOR PEOPLE DRIVING UP TO THE  
2 TRAIL HEAD ALONG CANYON CREEK. A ALL MY IN-LAWS FROM NEW  
3 HAMPSHIRE WERE HORRIFIED AT THE PREVIOUS MINING SITES. THEY  
4 GO, "OH, MY GOD. HOW CAN YOU LOOK AT THAT?" WELL, THAT'S  
5 THE MINING FROM THE PREVIOUS, THAT'S THE MINING FROM THE  
6 1800'S. HOPEFULLY THEY'RE NOT DOING THAT ANYMORE. B

7 HOWEVER, WHEN THEY COME VISIT THIS SUMMER, THEY MAY,  
8 IN FACT, FIND IT'S STILL OCCURRING ON A DIFFERENT LEVEL. THE  
9 CLEARING OF THE LAND, THE REMOVAL OF THE TREES, IT'S GOING TO  
10 HAVE A TREMENDOUS VISUAL IMPACT. A I COMMEND YOU ON YOUR  
11 ATTEMPTS NOT TO ALLOW THE SOIL TO RUN DOWN INTO THE CREEK AND  
12 HAVE THAT BE AS BAD AS IT'S BEEN IN THE PAST. C I CERTAINLY  
13 WOULD HOPE NOT. BUT THE VISUAL IMPACTS ARE GOING TO BE QUITE  
14 NOTICEABLE FROM THE ROAD. AM I CORRECT IN ASSUMING THAT? A

15 CULLEN THOMAS: NO, MA'AM.

16 TERRY WILSON: IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE ABLE TO SEE  
17 AREA TWO FROM THE ROAD. A

18 CULLEN THOMAS: THERE WILL BE A BARRIER WITH TREES.

19 GLORIA MARSHALL: IT'S A CORRIDOR THROUGH THERE. A  
20 TURN FROM THE STEEL BRIDGE, THERE IS A CORRIDOR THERE THAT'S  
21 BEING LEFT TO TAKE CARE OF ANY VISUAL UNPLEASANTNESS THAT  
22 ANYONE MIGHT SEE, TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY.

23 CULLEN THOMAS: THERE WILL BE FORTY FOOT OF TREES  
24 BETWEEN THE ROAD AND THE MINE.

25 TERRY WILSON: FOUR FOOT?

26 CULLEN THOMAS: FORTY, OR MORE IN SOME PLACES.

27 MIKE MITCHELL: I'D LIKE TO SPEAK TO -- TERRY, IS  
28 IT?

1 TERRY WILSON: YES.

2 MIKE MITCHELL: I'M THE TEAM LEADER FOR THE GROUP  
3 THAT'S DOING THE ANALYSIS, AND WE DO HAVE A LANDSCAPE  
4 ARCHITECT. SHE'S NOT HERE THIS EVENING, BUT SHE WILL BE  
5 DOING THE ANALYSIS OF THE VISUALS FROM THE ASPECTS OF THE  
6 ROAD CORRIDOR AND OTHER AREAS, TO EVALUATE THE PROPOSAL. AND  
7 IF YOU'D LIKE TO WORK SPECIFICALLY WITH THAT PERSON RELATED  
8 TO THAT, YOU'RE MORE THAN WELCOME TO DO SO.

9 TERRY WILSON: SO I CAN CONTACT HER THROUGH YOUR  
10 OFFICE? I HAVE YOUR MAILING ADDRESS.

11 MIKE MITCHELL: YES, THAT'S ME UP THERE.

12 JAN FORD: ARE YOU DONE?

13 TERRY WILSON: YES.

14 JAN FORD: THANK YOU.

15 [STEVE BRENDALL: STEVE BRENDALL, JUNCTION CITY. I'M  
16 CURIOUS ABOUT THIS NEWER PROPOSAL. IS ANY OF THIS SUPPOSED  
17 TO BE DETAILED -- EXHIBIT A IS REALLY DIFFICULT WITHOUT GOING  
18 OVER AND CHECKING THE DIFFERENT QUADRANTS ON THE PROPERTY, AS  
19 TO WHERE THE PONDS WILL BE, WHERE THIS WILL BE, WHERE THAT  
20 WILL BE. IT'S AN OLD EXHIBIT ON AN UPDATED PROPOSAL, AS I  
21 UNDERSTAND.] A

22 GLORIA MARSHALL: SIR, THERE ARE OTHER MAPS --

23 LARRY MCLEAN: I CAN ADDRESS THAT. THEY HAVE --  
24 THERE ARE 12 ADDITIONAL PAGES.

25 GLORIA MARSHALL: THEY'RE ALL COLOR, AND IT'S AN  
26 EXPENSIVE PROCESS TO PRODUCE THAT.

27 [STEVE BRENDALL: I UNDERSTAND. IS THERE A PLACE WE  
28 CAN DO IT, SO WE CAN SEE SOME MORE DETAILS?] A

1 LARRY MCLEAN: YES.

2 JAN FORD: SO THEY WOULD COME TO THE OFFICE?

3 LARRY MCLEAN: JUST MAKE AN APPOINTMENT. I CAN PUT  
4 MY TELEPHONE NUMBER ON THE BOARD UP HERE.

5 [STEVE BENDALL: THE OTHER ISSUE, ON CULTURAL  
6 RESOURCES, YOU'VE DONE A SURVEY, PUBLIC PROPERTY. WHAT'S  
7 THE -- THERE HAD BEEN STUFF OCCURRING THERE PAST WITH THE OLD  
8 MINING AND THE PEOPLE THAT LIVED THERE BEFORE.] B

9 JOYCE ANDERSEN: YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT  
10 ARCHAEOLOGICAL, PREHISTORIC AND HISTORIC?

11 STEVE BENDALL: RIGHT.

12 JOYCE ANDERSEN: PART OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESS  
13 IS TO DO THAT. WE HAVE A WHOLE GROUP, INCLUDING AN  
14 ARCHEOLOGIST, WHO WILL DO THE SURVEYS.

15 STEVE BENDALL: INCLUDING RESIDENT --

16 JOYCE ANDERSEN: YES. WE HAVE TWO ARCHAEOLOGISTS.  
17 THEY'RE WORKING FOR THIS UNIT. THEY'LL DO A COMPLETE SURVEY.

18 [STEVE BENDALL: THEY HAVE IN THE PAST. HAVE THEY  
19 ALREADY HAD A SURFACE SURVEY?] B

20 JOYCE ANDERSEN: THERE HAVE BEEN SURVEYS IN THIS  
21 AREA, AND THEY'LL DO A MORE COMPLETE SURVEY.

22 [STEVE BENDALL: WHAT'S THE IMPACT ON THOSE?] B

23 JOYCE ANDERSEN: WE'RE NOT PREPARED TONIGHT TO TALK  
24 ABOUT THE IMPACTS. WE'RE TAKING COMMENTS, AND WE'LL HAVE A  
25 TEAM EVALUATE IT.

26 STEVE BENDALL: THANK YOU.

27 JAN FORD: OKAY.

28 [MICHAEL CURRAN: MY NAME IS MICHAEL CURRAN. I'M A

1 LIFELONG RESIDENT OF TRINITY COUNTY. THERE WAS THE 132ND  
2 BIRTHDAY OF 1872 MINING ACT. I'M OPPOSED TO THE MINING ACT,  
3 BUT WITH THOSE LARGE OPEN PIT MINES IN COLORADO AND ARIZONA,  
4 THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ONCE IT GETS TO CONGRESS; NOTHING  
5 EVER HAPPENS.]A

6 TOURISM AROUND HERE, ALSO WITH THE FISHERIES -- 22  
7 ACRES OF CLEARED LAND IS 22 ACRES OF CLEARED LAND.]B]C] AND THE  
8 PROXIMITY, EAST FORK AND CANYON CREEK, IT'S THE MAIN STEM.  
9 IT JUST SEEMS IRONIC TO ME, AS YOU DRIVE UP EAST FORK, TO SEE  
10 A SIGN THAT SAYS, "HELP KEEP LAKES AND STREAMS CLEAN. DON'T  
11 POLLUTE," AND YOU CLEAR 20 ACRES THERE.]D

12 I'M OPPOSED TO THE ACT. I DON'T HAVE ANY PERSONAL  
13 AGGRESSION TOWARD CULLEN OR GLORIA, BUT THEY'RE OBVIOUSLY  
14 GOING TO TRY TO MITIGATE WHAT THOSE OTHER UNFORESEEN  
15 CIRCUMSTANCES MAY BE.]E

16 GOING UP THERE THIS WINTER -- I GO UP THE ROAD AND  
17 CHECK IT OUT. I'M A HIKER. IT WAS CLEAR, AND THE SNOW, AND  
18 EQUIPMENT LEAKS, AND THERE WAS HYDRAULIC FUEL, AND IT WAS  
19 DOWN ON THE PINE NEEDLES, AND IT HAD ITS WHOLE ARRAY OF OIL  
20 COLORS, AND I TOOK A PICTURE FOR THAT REFERENCE OF, YES, THEY  
21 DO LEAK. IT WAS SITTING THERE.]FG

22 TWENTY-TWO ACRES IS 22 ACRES. MINING EQUIPMENT  
23 RUNNING IN THERE IS GOING TO POLLUTE IT.]F] I'M OPPOSED TO THE  
24 1872 MINING ACT. IT'S A WAY TO GET PEOPLE TO STAKE THEIR  
25 CLAIM, GO THROUGH THE PROPOSAL, ACT IT OUT. THAT WAS TO GET  
26 THE PEOPLE IN PUBLIC LANDS.]A

27 NOW, WHAT'S BRINGING PEOPLE HERE IS THE TRINITY  
28 ALP'S. INDIAN CREEK SEES OVER HALF THE PEOPLE, BASICALLY,

1 THAT GO INTO THE ALP'S. IT'S RIGHT ALONG THE CORRIDOR. THEN  
2 YOU GET THE SENSE, WHEN YOU CROSS THE SECOND STEEL BRIDGE,  
3 YOU'RE LIKE, ALL RIGHT, THIS IS BEAUTIFUL. I GUESS THAT'S  
4 THAT. ] H

5 GLORIA MARSHALL: WE HAD SOME VANDALISM, BY THE WAY,  
6 ON THAT PIECE OF EQUIPMENT IN THE WINTER, AND THAT'S WHY  
7 WE'RE PRETTY ADAMANT ABOUT HAVING SOME SORT OF SYSTEM SET UP  
8 TO WHERE THE PROPERTY AND THE EQUIPMENT WILL BE GUARDED. WE  
9 FOUND OUR HYDRAULIC LINE CUT.

10 MICHAEL CURRAN: SO THAT'S POSSIBLY A WAY. I SAW  
11 ALL THAT.

12 GLORIA MARSHALL: WE WERE DEVASTATED BY IT, TOO.  
13 THERE IS ONLY SO MUCH YOU CAN DO. YOU CAN DO MORE DAMAGE  
14 SOMETIMES TO MOVE A PIECE OF EQUIPMENT AWAY FROM THE AREA  
15 WHEN IT'S BEEN VANDALIZED. AND ESPECIALLY WHEN IT SNOWS AND  
16 IT WAS CLOSED, IT WAS NOT CONDUCIVE TO SOMEONE WORKING ON.  
17 IT'S DANGEROUS WORKING ON EQUIPMENT WHEN THE WEATHER IS  
18 FREEZING OR BELOW. WE WERE DEVASTATED TO HAVE OUR EQUIPMENT  
19 BROKEN INTO, AND WE FOUND THE PROBLEM.

20 CULLEN THOMAS: THE OTHER THING, NOW, WE CLEANED IT  
21 UP AS SOON AS WE KNEW IT, AS SOON AS WE COULD. THOSE THINGS  
22 HAPPEN, VANDALISM DOES. IT'S BAD. BUT IT'S NOT OUR PURPOSE  
23 TO DESTROY ANY OF THE SURFACE OR LEAVE PUDDLES OF OIL  
24 ANYWHERE. IF WE KNOW ABOUT IT, WE'LL CLEAN IT UP. WE DIDN'T  
25 CAUSE IT. VANDALISM CAUSED IT.

26 GLORIA MARSHALL: I WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS ONE OTHER  
27 THING, IF I MIGHT. I FORGOT WHICH LADY OR GENTLEMAN SPOKE  
28 ABOUT THE AREA THAT WE TESTED AND SUPPOSEDLY RECLAIMED.

1 WHICH ONE OF YOU, ABOUT THE TEST AREA?

2 THAT AREA IS AREA TWO. SO THEY WOULD NOT ALLOW  
3 US -- OR THEY WOULD ALLOW US TO RESTORE IT, BUT IF WE'RE  
4 GOING TO REMINE IT, BECAUSE WE ONLY TOOK A TEST HOLE THERE,  
5 TO SEE IF IT WAS ADVANTAGEOUS FOR US TO GO FURTHER, AND THAT  
6 WAS ALL DONE WITH PROPER BONDING, PROPER PROCEDURE. BUT WE  
7 DID NOT PLANT TREES. WE DID NOT DO ANY ADDITIONAL WORK  
8 THERE.

9 WE DID MAKE SURE THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE ANY RUNOFF  
10 OR ANYTHING INTO THE CREEK. AND WE PUT HAY AND RICE STRAW  
11 THERE, AND THE PROPER REQUIREMENTS, IN ORDER TO KEEP THE AREA  
12 AS UNCONTAMINATED AS WE COULD. BUT TREES HAVE NOT BEEN  
13 PLANTED FOR THE FACT THAT IS AREA TWO AND THAT IS THE  
14 PROPOSAL OF OUR PLAN.

15 CULLEN THOMAS: THAT SAME AREA WILL BE REMINED, SO  
16 IT'S A TEMPORARY THING.

17 GLORIA MARSHALL: THERE IS NO NEED, WE WERE TOLD, TO  
18 REPLANT TREES IF THAT AREA IS GOING TO BE MINED UP AGAIN.  
19 AND THERE IS A BOND STILL POSTED THERE FOR THAT, IN CASE WE  
20 WERE TO RUN AWAY TOMORROW. BUT I'VE BEEN HERE SIX YEARS, SO  
21 I DON'T THINK I WILL.

22 JAN FORD: OKAY?

23 [ DENNIS KORP: MY NAME IS DENNIS KORP. I HAVE JUST A  
24 COUPLE OF COMMENTS AND SOME QUESTIONS. ONE COMMENT IS, SOUND  
25 IS GOING TO BE VERY IMPORTANT TO ME, AND ALSO TO THE MEMBERS  
26 OF MY FAMILY WHO OWN ADJACENT PROPERTY. SO THAT'S A MAJOR  
27 THING THAT I'M THINKING ABOUT.] A

28 [ YOU ASK THAT OUR COMMENTS TONIGHT STICK TO THIS

1 PROJECT, WHICH IS FINE. BUT THERE IS A WHOLE CREEK OF HIGH  
2 BENCHES, AND NOT ONLY ON CANYON CREEK BUT ON OTHER CREEKS.  
3 AND IF -- SO YOU NEED TO LOOK AT CUMULATIVE EFFECTS AND MAYBE  
4 TRY TO HAVE SOME KIND OF JUDGMENT OF FUTURE CUMULATIVE  
5 EFFECTS, IF THAT'S POSSIBLE. ] B C

6 ] BUT WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW, PROBABLY, IS THAT IF  
7 PEOPLE THINK THAT THEY'RE GOING TO MARCH DOWN EVERY  
8 GOLD-BEARING CREEK IN THE COUNTY, DOING HIGH-BENCH, OPEN-PIT  
9 MINING, THEN IT'S GOING TO GET REAL POLITICAL, AND EVENTUALLY  
10 IT WILL STOP. ] D

11 ] I WAS WONDERING ABOUT STANDING IN THE PROCESS. THIS  
12 IS PROBABLY FOR SAM. I'VE HEARD AT TIMES IN THE PAST, WHO  
13 HAS STANDING TO FILE AN APPEAL OR DO SOMETHING? ] E

14 SAM FRINK: ANYBODY THAT'S COMMENTED IN THE PLANNING  
15 PROCESS. IF YOU COMMENTED IN THE SCOPING PROCESS OR IF YOU  
16 COMMENTED IN THE NOTICE FOR COMMENT PROCESS AFTER WE HAVE  
17 E.A., YOU WILL HAVE STANDING.

18 ] DENNIS KORP: AT ANY TIME DURING THE PROCESS? ] E

19 SAM FRINK: AT ANY TIME DURING THE PROCESS.

20 ] DENNIS KORP: AND LETTERS THAT HAVE BEEN WRITTEN  
21 PREVIOUSLY ON TRINITY 1-8, WILL THOSE BE INCORPORATED INTO  
22 THE PROCESS ALSO? ] E F

23 SAM FRINK: I THINK, IN THE NOTICE FOR COMMENT  
24 PERIOD, IF THE LETTER WAS WRITTEN PREVIOUSLY, BEFORE WE  
25 STARTED OUR SCOPING PROCESS --

26 ] DENNIS KORP: WELL, I WROTE A LETTER, MAYBE TWO  
27 LETTERS, WITH REGARD TO THE TEST PITS. ] E F

28 SAM FRENICS: OKAY.

1 [ DENNIS KORP: ARE THESE GOING TO BE INCORPORATED, OR  
2 DO I HAVE TO ASK THEY BE? ] E

3 SAM FRINK: WELL, THEY DON'T NEED TO BE INCORPORATED  
4 TWICE INTO THAT TO HAVING STANDING FOR THE PROCESS.

5 JAN FORD: I THINK THE QUESTION WAS, DO THOSE TWO  
6 LETTERS ALREADY COUNT? ARE THEY GOING TO BE PART OF THE  
7 PROCESS, THE LETTERS TO THIS PROJECT?

8 SAM FRINK: NO.

9 [ DENNIS KORP: IF I ASK FOR THEM TO BE INCORPORATED? ] E

10 SAM FRINK: THEN THEY WOULD.

11 DENNIS KORP: OKAY.

12 SAM FRINK: THEN THEY WOULD.

13 DENNIS KORP: WELL, REMEMBER MY NAME.

14 SAM FRINK: WE'LL TAKE THE LIST HERE, AND THAT WILL  
15 START YOUR STANDING, TO CARRY RIGHT THROUGH THE WHOLE  
16 PROCESS, BECAUSE YOU HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE PROCESS.

17 [ DENNIS KORP: THE SCOPING -- YOU SAY THE SCOPING  
18 MEETING IS NOT ACTUALLY LEGALLY REQUIRED? ] E F

19 SAM FRINK: IT IS NOT LEGALLY REQUIRED FOR US TO  
20 HAVE AN OPEN PUBLIC MEETING. IT'S THE GOVERNMENT'S  
21 RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE ATTEMPT TO INFORM THE PUBLIC ON OUR  
22 PROPOSAL. HOW WE DO THAT DOESN'T REQUIRE US TO DO A MEETING.  
23 BUT WE'VE CHOSEN TO DO THAT.

24 [ DENNIS KORP: SO SCOPING IS REQUIRED OF THE MEETING,  
25 ISN'T IT? ] F

26 SAM FRINK: YES.

27 [ DENNIS KORP: WAS THERE A NOTICE PUT IN THE PAPER OR  
28 ANYTHING LIKE THAT? ] F

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SAM FRINK: YES.

[DENNIS KORP: HOW MANY SCOPING LETTERS WERE SENT  
OUT? WAS IT JUST IN THE CANYON CREEK AREA?] F

LARRY MCLEAN: CANYON CREEK, SEVERAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
GROUPS, ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION GROUP, THE --

[UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: HOW MUCH OF CANYON CREEK?] A

LARRY MCLEAN: ABOUT TWO MILES. WE GO THROUGH THE  
LIST. THERE ARE LIKE 200 AND SOMETHING PROPERTY OWNERS. WE  
DON'T KNOW WHICH ONES ARE ACTUALLY LIVING THERE OR NOT.

[DENNIS KORP: SO YOU DIDN'T SEND IT TO EVERYBODY?] D

LARRY MCLEAN: NO.

[DENNIS KORP: THERE ARE 200 PROPERTY OWNERS, AND YOU  
SENT TO HOW MANY?] D

LARRY MCLEAN: FROM THE PROJECT, BASICALLY ABOUT  
THREE MILES.

[DENNIS KORP: DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE NUMBER IS?] D

LARRY MCLEAN: ABOUT FORTY.

[DENNIS KORP: JUST SO YOU KNOW, SOME NEIGHBORHOODS  
GOT SOME; SOME DIDN'T.] D

LARRY MCLEAN: AND PEOPLE WHO RESPONDED TO OUR  
PREVIOUS SCOPING ON TRINITY 1-8 ALSO GOT A LETTER.

CULLEN THOMAS: IT WAS PUBLIC NOTICE.

JAN FORD: ARE YOU FINISHED WITH YOUR COMMENTS?

DENNIS KORP: YES, I THINK SO.

[JESSIE HENRY: MY NAME IS JESSIE HENRY, AND I'M KIND  
OF HERE ON BEHALF OF A FRIEND WHO OWNS PROPERTY ADJACENT TO  
THE PROPOSED MINING SITE. AND HE -- AND I AM, TOO -- WE'RE  
PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT NOISE AND, OBVIOUSLY,

1 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS. BUT I THINK NOISE WOULD BE -- WOULD  
2 REALLY AFFECT THE DAILY LIFE FOR PEOPLE AROUND HERE, I THINK.  
3 THAT'S ALL.]A

4 JAN FORD: THANK YOU.

5 SIR?

6 [TOM FAUGHT: THERE ARE PEOPLE ABSENT TONIGHT WHO  
7 WANTED TO BE HERE, AND THEY VOICED CONCERN ABOUT NOISE, AND  
8 THAT'S ONE OF MY CONCERNS.]A [I AM ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT VISUAL  
9 IMPACT. THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN MENTIONED.]B [BUT I ALSO -- I  
10 JUST FEEL THAT THE COUNTY AND THE PEOPLE THAT ARE LIVING IN  
11 THE COUNTY HAVE TO FIND THEIR OWN VISION AS FAR AS WHETHER  
12 THEY'RE GOING TO DEVELOP ONE WAY OR THEY'RE GOING TO DO THE  
13 ECOTOURISM THING. AND APPARENTLY THAT HASN'T BEEN WORKED OUT  
14 YET.]C [BUT I THINK THE CONCERNS THAT I'M HEARING ABOUT HAVE TO  
15 DO WITH NOISE.]A

16 JAN FORD: WHAT WAS YOUR NAME?

17 TOM FAUGHT: MY NAME IS TOM FAUGHT, F-A-U-G-H-T.

18 JAN FORD: OKAY.

19 [KAITLYN CURRAN: MY NAME IS KAITLYN CURRAN, AND I  
20 HAVE LIVED ON CANYON CREEK MOST OF MY LIFE, EXCEPT FOR SCHOOL  
21 AND OCCASIONAL STAYS IN OTHER AREAS. AND LIKE MY BROTHER, I  
22 DON'T THINK I HAVE ANYTHING PERSONAL AGAINST YOU TWO, BECAUSE  
23 I DON'T KNOW YOU. I HAVE WANTED TO COME TALK TO YOU MANY  
24 TIMES, BUT THERE IS A LOT OF EMOTIONS THAT SIT INSIDE OF ME  
25 ABOUT WHAT YOU PLAN TO DO, AND IT'S BASICALLY OPPOSITE OF  
26 WHAT YOU WANT TO DO, SO I DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW TO APPROACH  
27 THAT, OTHER THAN TO COME TO A MEETING AND TRY TO FIGURE OUT  
28 WHAT'S HAPPENING.]A

1 [ I ALSO WOULD LIKE TO STATE THAT I FEEL LIKE IT'S  
2 GOING TO BE A HUGE VISUAL BURDEN ] B [ I ALSO HAVE USED CANYON  
3 CREEK ALL OF MY LIFE, AND I'VE WATCHED SO MANY PLACES ON THE  
4 CANYON -- FIRST OF ALL, I WATCHED EVERYBODY KICKED OUT OF  
5 THEIR HOUSES THAT WERE ON MINING CLAIMS, AND THOSE HOUSES  
6 BURNED DOWN, AND THOSE WERE FAMILY FRIENDS THAT WE'VE HAD.  
7 THEN I WATCHED OTHER PEOPLE COME INTO THOSE AREAS THAT WERE  
8 HOUSING PEOPLE THAT WE LOVED AND CARED ABOUT, AND THOSE  
9 PLACES HAVE BEEN DUG UP AND EXPLOITED. AND I DON'T KNOW IF  
10 GOLD WAS FOUND OR IT WAS MORE FOR THE TIMBER SALE OR WHAT IT  
11 WAS, BUT I HAVE MY OWN PERSONAL FEELINGS ABOUT THAT, AND I  
12 WAS JUST UNDER THE IMPRESSION OR UNDER THE HOPE THAT IT WOULD  
13 STOP. ] C [

14 [ AND NOW I REALIZE THIS IS A LAW THAT'S BEEN IN PLACE  
15 SINCE 1872, AND ON THE NEWS I WATCH PEOPLE AROUND THE COUNTRY  
16 FEEL THIS IS AN OUTDATED LAW. I GUESS WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY  
17 IS, THIS IS AN EMOTIONAL ISSUE FOR ME, AND I HOPE THAT THERE  
18 IS A RESOLVE. I'M HAPPY A LOT OF US ARE HERE, BECAUSE WE'RE  
19 CANYON CREEK RESIDENTS. WE DON'T LIKE WHAT'S ABOUT TO  
20 HAPPEN, NOT THAT WE CAN DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT, BUT WE DON'T  
21 LIKE WHAT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN. ] D [

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I ALREADY SAID WHAT I NEEDED  
23 TO SAY.

24 JAN FORD: OKAY.

25 [ JEFF FOX: I'M JEFF FOX, AND I'M A FREQUENT USER OF  
26 THE TRAILS AND THE ROADS UP THROUGH CANYON CREEK, MAINLY FOR  
27 RECREATION. ] A [ AND I WOULD JUST VOICE SOME OF THE SAME  
28 CONCERNS, MAINLY NOISE FACTORS OF BEING UP THERE IN THE AREA

1 AND HEARING SOMETHING THAT WASN'T -- THAT WAS OTHER THAN  
2 NATURE. B AND THEN ALSO, USING THE CREEK, SWIMMING IN THE  
3 CREEK DOWNSTREAM, IF THERE WAS ANY POLLUTION IN THAT, PEOPLE  
4 WILL BE AFFECTED THAT WAY. C D I WOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT THAT.  
5 AND ALSO TRAFFIC ON THE ROAD. I'M A CYCLIST, SO ANY  
6 ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC THAT'S UP THERE ON A NARROW, ONE-LANE ROAD  
7 JUST INCREASES THE DANGER EXPONENTIALLY. THAT'S ALSO MY  
8 CONCERN. E

9 JAN FORD: THANK YOU.

10 REGAN COOK: MY NAME IS REGAN COOK. I'D -- LIKE  
11 KAITLYN, THIS IS VERY EMOTIONAL FOR ME. I'M OUTRAGED THIS IS  
12 EVEN POSSIBLE TO HAPPEN. I DIDN'T KNOW BEFORE TONIGHT THAT  
13 WE HAD THIS KIND OF LAW IN PLACE. I'M REALLY CONCERNED  
14 ABOUT, PRETTY MUCH, I DON'T THINK THAT THERE IS ANYTHING THAT  
15 COULD BE DONE THAT WOULD MAKE THIS OKAY WITH ME. AND I DON'T  
16 THINK IT'S POSSIBLE IN ANY WAY THAT THEY COULD RECOVER THIS  
17 LAND TO THE KIND OF CONDITION THAT IT'S IN. IT'S JUST KIND  
18 OF RIDICULOUS TO EVEN PRETEND LIKE THAT'S POSSIBLE. A

19 I'M CONCERNED ABOUT POLLUTION. I'M REALLY CONCERNED  
20 ABOUT WILDLIFE. I'M CONCERNED ABOUT THE WATER QUALITY. I'M  
21 JUST -- B C D

22 JEFF FOX: AIR QUALITY.

23 REGAN COOK: AIR QUALITY, NOISE, SOUND, SOIL. C B E  
24 NOBODY REALLY SEEMS TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT'S  
25 JUST GOING TO LEAK INTO THE SOIL. F I'M OUTRAGED ABOUT THE  
26 WHOLE POSSIBILITY THAT THIS COULD HAPPEN, AND IT MAKES ME  
27 REALLY SAD THAT OUR VALUES ARE SO SCREWED UP. G

28 JAN FORD: THANK YOU. WELL, THAT IS WHAT WE WANTED

1 TO DO TONIGHT.

2 I'M SORRY?

3 MICHAEL BRADFORD: YES, I'D LIKE TO MAKE A CLOSING  
4 COMMENT. MY NAME IS MICHAEL BRADFORD. I'M A 25-YEAR-OLD  
5 TRINITY COUNTY RESIDENT. I GREW UP HERE. PRESENTLY I'VE  
6 BEEN WORKING WITH THE FOREST SERVICE, DOING A WILDERNESS  
7 PATROL, [AND I REALIZE THE VALUE OF THE TRINITY ALP'S  
8 WILDERNESS AS A RESOURCE FOR TRINITY COUNTY AND ITS  
9 DEVELOPMENT.] [AB]

10 [THE CONCERNS THAT I HOLD WITH THIS PROJECT ARE THE  
11 SEDIMENTARY RUNOFF INTO CANYON CREEK, WHICH WE KNOW IS A  
12 MAJOR TRIBUTARY TO THE TRINITY COUNTY RIVER.] [C] [THIS RIVER  
13 HOLDS IMMENSE POPULATIONS OF SALMON AND STEELHEAD, WHICH ARE,  
14 HAVE BEEN AND STILL ARE, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES.] [D]  
15 [SO MY CONCERNS ARE WITH THE POSSIBLE FLOWS OF SEDIMENT INTO  
16 THE RIVER.] [C] AND I THINK IT'S A VERY LEGITIMATE CAUSE. THANK  
17 YOU.

18 JAN FORD: YES?

19 [UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I KNOW I SPOKE EARLIER, BUT I  
20 JUST WANTED TO REITERATE THE CONCERN FOR THE WILDLIFE. I  
21 THINK THAT WE'VE TALKED A LOT ABOUT THE OTHER STUFF. DO WE  
22 KNOW WHAT THE MIGRATORY FLOW IS THERE, WHAT THE TRAIL USE OF  
23 THE ANIMALS IN THE AREA IS? AND IS THAT GOING TO BE  
24 DISRUPTED? HOW MUCH AND HOW IS THAT GOING TO BE RESTORED?] [A]

25 JAN FORD: OKAY. WELL, THAT WAS WHAT WE WANTED TO  
26 DO. WE APPRECIATE YOU BEING HERE. WE APPRECIATE YOUR  
27 HONESTY. THIS IS AN EMOTIONAL ISSUE FOR A LOT OF FOLKS, AND  
28 WE UNDERSTAND THAT. BUT IT'S THE HIGHEST AND BEST USE OF

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DEMOCRACY FOR YOU TO BE HERE AND BE PARTICIPATING. WE  
APPRECIATE THAT VERY MUCH.

WE ARE A LITTLE AHEAD OF SCHEDULE. IF YOU WANT TO  
HAVE SOME DISCUSSION WITH THE FOLKS WHO ARE HERE, PLEASE FEEL  
FREE TO DO THAT. WE'LL BE PACKING UP ABOUT 8:30. SO THANK  
YOU FOR BEING HERE AND PARTICIPATING. AND IF YOU HAVEN'T  
SIGNED IN, PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU DO, SO YOU CAN BE ON THE  
LIST.

---OOO---

1 CERTIFICATE OF CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER

2 ---000---

3  
4 SCOPING MEETING REGARDING TRINITY 1-8

5 PLAN OF OPERATION PROPOSAL

6 FILE CODE: 2810

7 \_\_\_\_\_/

8  
9 I, DARLENE Y. ROBERSON, C.S.R. 11167, HEREBY CERTIFY  
10 THAT I AM A CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER, SO LICENSED BY THE  
11 DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

12 I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT WHILE A CERTIFIED SHORTHAND  
13 REPORTER, I TOOK DOWN IN STENOGRAPHIC WRITING THE PROCEEDINGS  
14 IN THE ABOVE-ENTITLED ACTION, IN THE COUNTY OF TRINITY;

15 THAT I THEREAFTER CAUSED THE SAID STENOGRAPHIC WRITING  
16 TO BE TRANSCRIBED INTO LONGHAND WRITING, AND THAT THE  
17 FOREGOING 59 PAGES CONSTITUTE, AND ARE, A FULL, TRUE,  
18 ACCURATE AND VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF SAID PROCEEDINGS.

19 DATED THIS 14TH DAY OF JUNE 2004.

20  
21   
22 DARLENE ROBERSON, CSR 11167  
23 CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER  
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## Appendix E - Summary of Public Hearing Comments

| Tr# | Last Name            | First Name | Comment Date | Purpose & Need of Project | Project Description & Alternatives | Land Use | Geology, Fluvial Geomorphology, & Soils | Water Resources | Water Quality | Fishery Resources | Vegetation, Wildlife, & Wetlands | Recreation | Socioeconomics, Population, & Housing | Tribal Trust | Cultural Resources | Air Quality | Environmental Justice | Hazardous Materials | Noise | Public Services, Utilities & Energy | Visual/Aesthetics | Transportation & Traffic | Circulation | Cumulative Impacts | Scoping       | Other Comments | Oppose Project | Mailing List |
|-----|----------------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|----------|---|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1   | Unidentified Speaker | N/A        | 5/13/04      |                           | B                                  |          | A                                       |                 |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |             |                    |               |                |                |              |
| 2   | Unidentified Speaker | N/A        | 5/13/04      |                           | A, C, D                            |          |   |                 |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             | B                     |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |             |                    |               |                |                |              |
| 3   | Unidentified Speaker | N/A        | 5/13/04      |                           | A                                  |          |   |                 |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |             |                    | B, C          |                |                |              |
| 4   | Unidentified Speaker | N/A        | 5/13/04      |                           | B                                  |          | A, C, E, F                              |                 |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |             |                    | D             |                |                |              |
| 5   | Unidentified Speaker | N/A        | 5/13/04      |                           |                                    |          |   |                 |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |             |                    | A             |                |                |              |
| 6   | Unidentified Speaker | N/A        | 5/13/04      |                           | A, N, O, P, Q                      |          |   | M               |               |                   |                                  | H          |                                       |              |                    |             |                       | C, E                |       | I                                   | B, G              |                          |             |                    | D, F, J, K, L |                |                |              |
| 7   | Unidentified Speaker | N/A        | 5/13/04      |                           |                                    |          |   |                 |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |             |                    | A             |                |                |              |
| 8   | Rye                  | David      | 5/13/04      |                           |                                    |          |   |                 |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |             |                    | A, B, C       |                |                |              |
| 9   | Leffler              | Matt       | 5/13/04      |                           |                                    |          |   |                 |               |                   |                                  | B, D       |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |             |                    | A, C          |                |                |              |
| 10  | Leffler              | Christine  | 5/13/04      |                           |                                    |          |   |                 |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |             |                    | A, B          |                |                |              |
| 11  | Lim                  | Andrew     | 5/13/04      |                           |                                    |          |   |                 |               | C                 |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   | B                        |             |                    | A             |                |                |              |
| 12  | Mule                 | Terry      | 5/13/04      |                           | E                                  | A        |   |                 | G             |                   | C                                | F          |                                       | I            |                    |             | H                     |                     | B     |                                     |                   |                          |             |                    | D, J, K       |                |                |              |
| 13  | Comlin               | Patricia   | 5/13/04      |                           | G                                  |          | D                                       | C               |               |                   |                                  | B          |                                       |              |                    |             | F                     |                     |       | E                                   |                   |                          |             |                    | A             |                |                |              |
| 14  | Wilson               | Terry      | 5/13/04      |                           |                                    |          |   | C               |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |       | A                                   |                   |                          |             |                    | B             |                |                |              |
| 15  | Brendall             | Steve      | 5/13/04      |                           | A                                  |          |   |                 |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       | B            |                    |             |                       |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |             |                    |               |                |                |              |
| 16  | Curran               | Michael    | 5/13/04      |                           |                                    | D        |   | G               | C             |                   | H                                | B          |                                       |              |                    |             | F                     |                     |       |                                     |                   |                          |             |                    | A, E          |                |                |              |
| 17  | Korp                 | Dennis     | 5/13/04      |                           |                                    |          |   |                 |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             | A                     |                     |       |                                     |                   | C                        | F           | B, D, E            |               |                |                |              |

## Appendix E - Summary of Public Hearing Comments

| TR#                     | Last Name            | First Name | Comment Date | Purpose & Need of Project | Project Description & Alternatives | Land Use | Geology, Fluvial Geomorphology, & Soils | Water Resources | Water Quality | Fishery Resources | Vegetation, Wildlife, & Wetlands | Recreation | Socioeconomics, Population, & Housing | Tribal Trust | Cultural Resources | Air Quality | Environmental Justice | Hazardous Materials | Noise    | Public Services, Utilities & Energy | Visual/Aesthetics | Transportation & Traffic | Circulation | Cumulative Impacts | Scoping   | Other Comments | Oppose Project | Mailing List |
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| 18                      | Unidentified Speaker | N/A        | 5/13/04      |                           |                                    |          |   |                 |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |          |                                     |                   |                          |             |                    |           | A              |                |              |
| 19                      | Henry                | Jessie     | 5/13/04      |                           |                                    |          |   |                 |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       | A                   |          |                                     |                   |                          |             |                    |           |                |                |              |
| 20                      | Faught               | Tom        | 5/13/04      |                           |                                    |          |   |                 |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       | A                   |          | B                                   |                   |                          |             |                    |           | C              |                |              |
| 21                      | Curran               | Kaitlyn    | 5/13/04      |                           |                                    |          |   |                 |               |                   |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |          | B                                   |                   |                          |             |                    |           | A, C, D        |                |              |
| 22                      | Fox                  | Jeff       | 5/13/04      |                           |                                    |          |   | D               |               |                   | A, C                             |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       | B                   |          |                                     | E                 |                          |             |                    |           |                |                |              |
| 23                      | Cook                 | Regan      | 5/13/04      |                           |                                    | B        |   | C               | D             |                   | A                                |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |          |                                     |                   |                          |             |                    |           |                |                |              |
| 24                      | Bradford             | Michael    | 5/13/04      |                           |                                    | C        |   | D               | E             |                   | B                                |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |          |                                     |                   |                          |             |                    |           | A              |                |              |
| 25                      | Unidentified Speaker | N/A        | 5/13/04      |                           |                                    |          |   |                 |               | A                 |                                  |            |                                       |              |                    |             |                       |                     |          |                                     |                   |                          |             |                    |           |                |                |              |
| <b>TOTAL NON-BLANKS</b> |                      |            |              | <b>0</b>                  | <b>8</b>                           | <b>2</b> | <b>2</b>                                | <b>3</b>        | <b>7</b>      | <b>4</b>          | <b>2</b>                         | <b>6</b>   | <b>4</b>                              | <b>0</b>     | <b>1</b>           | <b>1</b>    | <b>0</b>              | <b>2</b>            | <b>7</b> | <b>0</b>                            | <b>5</b>          | <b>3</b>                 | <b>2</b>    | <b>1</b>           | <b>18</b> | <b>0</b>       | <b>0</b>       |              |